

There is a peculiar point about the Prussian system which I think Major Russell did not touch upon, but I may be permitted perhaps to mention it. I believe that in all their cavalry formations in three lines care is always taken that the second line should be thrown forwards towards the flank, so as to be ready, if the charge of the first line is successful, to make a flank movement on the front attack. A flank movement, I need hardly say, on a disorganized body of men is very effective. That is, I believe, one of the most important alterations in Prussian cavalry tactics. As to the question as to whether large bodies of cavalry will ever be moved to the front in modern warfare, I would say that it is often necessary to sacrifice a portion of the troops for the good of all, and the cavalry must take their share of that; but I do not think that cavalry is likely to be sent to the front against the deadly arms of the present day. But that being so, I do not think it militates against the necessity of having good cavalry. On the contrary, the day for cavalry has certainly not passed away, for an army without cavalry is no good at all. Everything now must be done so quickly that unless we have a large body of cavalry considerably in front almost without support, as in the case of the Prussian cavalry in the late war, we cannot know what is going on. The duties of reconnoitring and outpost work are most important, but they can only be learnt in the field. It is impossible to study them without manœuvring, and the difficulty we have to contend against with regard to our manœuvring is the want of space. We are not able to go over private property; and although the greatest liberality has been shown to us, still we are cramped, and in all our movements we are obliged to imagine and theorise a great deal. To show the advantage of good cavalry officers, the youngest officer might be sent to the front with a few men, and if intelligent, he may be able to obtain information that may save an army or gain a battle. Everything depends on the individual officer, from the highest to the lowest, and no portion of the Service ought to have more intelligent officers than the cavalry. I think that cavalry officers ought to be men of the greatest possible military ability; and they should be trained in surveying and land sketching. I don't like to leave this institute on these occasions without having said something to show that I have taken an interest in the subject brought before us, and we have to thank Major Russell for having brought this subject before us in so able a manner. It is wished that some discussion may follow, and I feel that it is better, holding the position I do, for me to retire, and I hope my leaving you now will be on y looked upon in that light. I wish you to have the fullest freedom of discussion. General Shute will take my place, and I trust you will discuss this matter fully and freely.

His Royal Highness then retired, and the chair was taken by General Shute, M.P., who remarked that the great want of cavalry regiments was a recruit troop, into which young soldiers, young horses, the older men, and the tag-rag of the regiment could be placed. Of course few officers would care to have such a troop, but now purchase was abolished an officer raised from the ranks might well take it with, say, 2s. 6d per day extra pay. Such a troop would form a depot for the regiment, and the other troops would always be ready to take the field. Much might be done with very little cost to the country and with advantage to the cavalry arm of the Service. He thought that one or two non-commissioned

officers in each regiment should learn telegraphy. Cavalry was the arm of opportunities, and would always be an important portion of the army in the field. He trusted he should be able to press the necessity of an augmentation of cavalry on the Government, and it would be a good thing to have two men to every horse in each regiment, for they could always buy horses, but they could not buy ready-made dragons."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir,—In your last issue attention is called to a letter written by Captain Radford, of the 47th battalion, which appeared in your issue of the 4th April, and as you suggest an interchange of views on the subject, I venture to say that with the general principles I fully concur, as set forth in that letter as well as in your editorial of the 18th April, excepting that part relating to Brigade Camps. While fully acknowledging and knowing the importance of squad and company drill, and the necessity of having men well instructed in those before commencing Battalion and Brigade drill, from eighteen years experience in the Volunteer force, I am satisfied that all kinds of drill can be better taught in large camps. There is not only the moral effect of seeing large numbers of men together, which engenders respect and pride for the service, thus stimulating all to such exertion as to render them, if possible, second to none; and while in camp, the minds of both officers and men being withdrawn from their ordinary citizen occupation, can more easily concentrate their energies on their military duties. I fully agree that twenty days would be preferable to twelve for either Battalion or Brigade camps, but most emphatically object to dispensing with the "march past," and as for it being solely for show is quite a mistake, and one which any company officer might easily make. Why did Napoleon so rigidly insist upon his army practicing almost daily the length and cadence of pace? It was to enable him to concentrate his several brigades at a certain point at a certain time, which he could (owing to their skill in marching) calculate within a few hours, by which he was enabled to strike his enemy with terrific and unexpected blows. In a camp of twenty days duration, the drills could be profitably divided as follows:—Three drills daily, six days squad and company drill, six days squad, company and battalion drill, and six days company, battalion and brigade drill, less the time required for target practice, leaving two days for going and returning.

While it is expected that Captains and Lieut. Colonels make daily inspections of

their men, this important duty is too often neglected, and as no troops could be expected to work together without practice, the march past becomes an important part of brigade drill, without which the Brigadier would not be able to see and check irregularities which invariably creep in, and although he might not be able at the time to regulate the length of pace, the cadence would be regulated by the brigade music. The space being afterwards regulated at battalion drill, and then what more expeditious manner of showing the force to the Major General or other inspecting officer than by the march past, and any officer who has given the matter a thought, knows that one hour's such drill will do more towards making the men steady, than four hours spent in any other way, and gives the men some idea of what a soldier would have to endure in actual war. It is true, armies are now moved by rail or boat to a certain extent, but no campaign can be carried on without many miles of marching.

Captain Radford intimates that Captains frequently have to use their own money in order to keep up their companies. There may be exceptional cases in rural corps but, excepting city corps it is not generally the case—a Captain's pay and allowances amount to \$113.60, and those of a Lieut. Colonel, with eight companies, to \$240 per annum—all of which should be expended on the force. This, in rural corps, is not done in nine cases out of ten. In cities, however, all the officers are supposed to contribute largely out of their private means.

I fully concur in your remarks relating to the "Y. M. C. A.," but think some slight pressure should be put on, to facilitate recruiting.

Yours truly,
VOLUNTEER.

REVIEWS.

The contents of *Blackwood* for April, reprinted by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 41 Barclay Street, New York, are as follows:

1. The Dilemma.—Part XII.
2. Mountaineering in the Himalaya.
3. 1895.—Chapters I. IX.
4. Mr. Ashley's Life of Lord Palmerston.
5. Brown's Peccadillo.—An Idyl of the Temple.
6. Norman McLeod.

The periodicals reprinted by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company (41 Barclay Street, N. Y.) are as follows: *The London Quarterly*, *Edinburgh*, *Westminster*, and *British Quarterly Reviews*, and *Blackwood's Magazine*. Price, \$1 a year for any one, or only \$15 for all, and the Postage is prepaid by the Publishers.

The *London Times* has published a statement of the public debt of Spain procured from official sources, which is an extraordinary document. The grand total is \$3,500,000,000, or almost the same as the debt of Great Britain. The interest on this, at 3 per cent., is about \$100,000,000, while the total revenue of the kingdom, even in good years, does not reach \$90,000,000.