

chance of their winning a dollar or two the men would be more eager to go. Each brigade camp has a musketry instructor on the staff, who is often appointed without reference to qualification, but how much more could be done if each battalion had a competent officer as instructor of musketry, thus taking on the responsibility of teaching men to shoot and relieving the captains of companies from a part of their work for which few of them are qualified.

TOMMY AITKENS.

MILITARY DRILL IN THE SCHOOLS.

SENATOR CARTER has introduced a bill "to establish a bureau of military education and to promote the adoption of uniform drill in the public schools of

the several states and territories." This bill provides for the establishment, within the War Department at Washington, of the "bureau of military education." It is to be conducted by an officer of the army, with such assistance from officers and clerks of the Department as may be necessary for the prompt and efficient execution of the Act. The officer at the head of the bureau is to prepare a text-book of drill regulations, with the view of making the drill taught in the public schools of the country uniform, and identical with that obtaining in the regular army. This text-book is to be distributed "free of charge on the written request of boards of education and directors of the public schools, or on the request of senators and representatives in Congress, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may approve." The ex-

penses of the bureau are to be defrayed from the contingent fund of the Department.

We have been asked by the superintendent of the Physical Culture Department of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union to petition Congress against the passage of this bill. We cannot consent to do this, and as the request comes from a source so eminently respectable, from a body of earnest women engaged in the noble work of promoting temperance, we deem it to be both courteous and proper to state briefly some of the reasons for our refusal.

In the first place, the bill does not impose military drill upon our public schools. The question as to the adoption of drill as a part of the school course is left to the local school authorities. The opposite proposition would be unconstitutional. This one recognizes the fact that in many of our schools the

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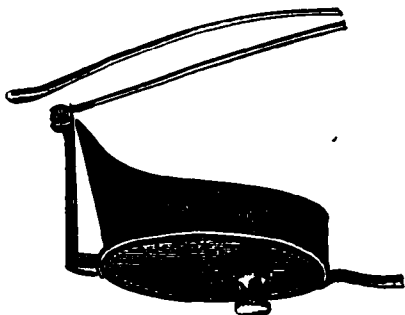
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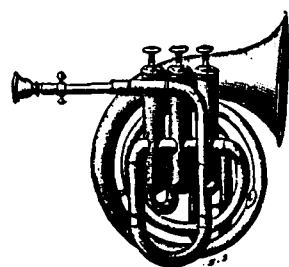


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