

tachments on duty at West Point. It is to be remembered, however, that this Englishman saw the cavalymen at their worst, as in the riding school they are serving as grooms and not as soldiers, and they would have presented a much more creditable appearance if seen on guard or parade. These detachments should be larger and should be composed of the sprucest and most soldierly-looking men in the army. Our Englishman is mistaken in supposing that the cadets are required to 'scrub their floors and perform other functions usually carried out by the lowest class of servants.' The cadets do sweep the dirt out of their rooms into the halls, but aside from that the scrubbing and cleaning up is done by servants. A New York paper, *Town Topics*, referring to the Englishman's article, says: 'Our English friend evidently falls into an error in supposing that the West Point Academy is the only military school which the Government has, and lays stress on the several schools which England, Germany and France have for the training of the different arms of the service. He overlooks the fact that in the educational economy of the United States Army at present, West Point is simply a military college, and that the military university of the United States comprises an excellent artillery school at Fortress Monroe, an engineering and torpedo course at Willet's Point, and a cavalry school at Lavenworth. These several supplementary schools have already been given considerable development, and I have no doubt that they will be treated liberally by congress, to the end that all officers graduating from the college at West Point may have, following it, the advantages of a military university education.'

Personal.

General Lord Alexander Russell, C. B., who lately commanded the Imperial forces in Canada, will be retired through age on December 16, 1888.

Lieut. Colonel E. Gunter, half-pay, formerly of the East Lancashire Regiment, has been appointed D. A. A. G. of the Imperial forces in Canada, in succession to Major Cutbill, who has rejoined the 1st Royal Irish Rifles.

Major Yule, of the 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers (Imp.), has lately been at Chambly, Q., settling up the affairs of the Yule estate, of which he is the largest heir. Major Yule is a Canadian by birth, being born in Chambly, educated at Lennoxville. He went through the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, obtaining his commission without purchase. He entered the army in 1866, was engaged in the Afghanistan war in 1878-9 as staff officer of transport; received the medal and clasp for Alimusfid, and has served on the staff of the Madras army since 1880 in India and Burmah; acted, until a few months ago, as Assistant Quartermaster General of the Hyderabad Subsidiary force, quartered at Secunderabad, India. Major Yule, when he retires from the army, will settle in Canada.

Major C. W. Grange, late of the Royal Canadian Rifles, died at Edinburgh on Friday last. Major Grange served as an officer of the Canadian Militia in the rebellion of 1837, and was present at the siege of Navy Island. He afterwards served several years in the 3rd Incorporated Battalion at Niagara, when he entered the regular army, receiving a commission in one of the West India regiments. He was in command of two expeditions in Africa—one against the King of Kenung in 1849, and another in conjunction with H. M. S. Alert and Pluto up the River Sherebro in the same year, and was highly complimented for his conduct on both occasions. Major Grange was a brother of the late Mr. George Grange, of Guelph, sheriff of the County of Wellington, Ont. He married Helena, eldest daughter of the late Col. Kingsmill, of Niagara, who survives him, and he also leaves two sons and a daughter, who are residing in Scotland.

A curious Tibetan musket or matchlock has found its way from Sikkim, where it was picked up after a battle, to Calcutta. It is described in the Indian papers as of primitive design, although comparatively new. It is a smooth-bore muzzle-loader, mounted on a long narrow stock. The barrel is fitted with a double-pronged rest, the points of which are sharply shod, so that the rest itself may either be placed firmly in the ground or used, if necessary, as a bayonet. The contrivance is ingenious and the weapon is not altogether to be despised. Attached to it is a belt, on which are strung six hollow wooden plugs for powder charges, and a small horn for priming powder. The workmanship of the whole is very rough, and there is scarcely any attempt at ornamentation.

The Volunteers.—III.—Tactics Examination.

(United Service Gazette.)

As certificates given to volunteer officers for passing their examinations, either at a school or before a board, vary in value, as we pointed out in our issue last week, so the certificates given after examination in tactics vary also in value, though in the latter case the difference is more distinctly shown by the letters affixed to the officer's name in the *Army List*.

All officers, of whatever rank, from colonel to lieutenant, may present themselves for examination in tactics twice a year—in January or in July. The examination is purely a written one, and is the same that all regular officers are compelled to pass before they can be promoted to the rank of captain. If 50 per cent of marks are obtained, the candidates obtain a certificate, and have "t" placed against their names in the *Army List*. If 75 per cent of marks, however, are obtained, then the certificate carries with it the right to "special mention," designated by a "T" in the list.

Though the higher ranks are eligible to compete in the lower examinations, subalterns are not allowed to go in for the examination requisite for officers of regulars to pass before promotion to major—this being only applicable to captains and field officers of volunteers. The "pass" in this case consists in obtaining 50 per cent. of marks, and in this branch there is no special mention granted at all.

The study of the most interesting part of a soldier's education has made great strides of late, and many volunteer officers have availed themselves of the opportunity to show that they are in earnest in wishing to learn all they can of their self-imposed duties. A moderate amount of application for a month or six weeks is all that is necessary to ensure a pass, and all officers should undoubtedly qualify in this important subject. In addition to the distinction placed in the official list, there is now granted annually a sum of 30s. to each officer qualified. This sum was formerly only 10s., but the authorities have recently granted the higher amount.

For the examinations held in London, Chelsea Barracks has usually been selected as the *locus*. All the candidates attend in undress uniform about two o'clock in the afternoon. A number is assigned to each officer, and every sheet of his written answers must bear this number and nothing else. There is, therefore, absolutely no clue to the identity of the officer under examination, and consequently the awards are made with perfect justice. Three hours are allowed in which to answer about six or seven compulsory questions, and on the printed paper (which each candidate receives on entering) are also some seven or eight more questions, of which the candidate is at liberty to select three and no more. Candidates should read the whole paper over *once* to get a general idea of the questions, and then at once set to work on No. 1, and write as much in answer to it as possible, leaving space on the paper for any further information, if time later on and fuller knowledge permit. Care in writing, neatness generally, absence of blots and amendments, are all points which are considered when the marks are awarded.

There are many books published on this subject of "Tactics," both great and small, but for the purpose of these examinations the candidate will find the following afford all the necessary information:—Home's "Précis of Modern Tactics;" Clery's "Minor Tactics;" Dyke's "Lectures in Tactics;" "The Field Exercise;" Regulations for the Instruction and Movements of Cavalry." The first of these books is not requisite for the lower examination, but it should be included by all desiring to pass in the higher, chapters iv. and v. being the important ones to read up.

It will, of course, be understood that any officer first qualifying for the lower examination can (if holding the rank of captain or field officer) subsequently go in for the higher examination, but when applying to be examined, distinct mention must be made which course is desired, and if a candidate has already been up and failed, it must be stated in the letter of application.

At the expiration of the examination, each officer signs a written declaration that he has received no assistance from books or other extraneous source. The examination papers are then collected and sealed up for transmission to the Director-General of Military Education, and after a lapse of about six weeks the successful candidates receive their certificates, while those "plucked" by *not* receiving these know that they have not been successful.

For all officers aspiring to take part in the "War Game," we cannot too earnestly recommend an immediate application to pass in tactics, and even for those who may not go in for "Kriegsspiel," it will be found an undoubted advantage to possess a clear knowledge and insight into this most interesting subject.

First Lieutenant William Crozier, U. S. Ordnance Department, will shortly go abroad on a six months' tour of observation under orders from the War Department. He has made gun-carriages his specialty for some years past.