

British Army will be second to none in the world; at least, if it is so, it will neither be the fault of the military authorities, nor of the officers themselves.

And now a word concerning the garrison instructors. fourteen in number; of these two are officers of the Royal Engineers, three of the Royal Artillery, and nine of the Line, the latter being all Staff College men.

These officers have, I think, proved themselves to be all that one could wish for the work before them, and have well justified their selection. It must be borne in mind that the system of garrison instruction is quite an innovation in our Army, and, as might be expected, was viewed with some little suspicion and distrust. Many a good old regimental officer, forgetting how times have changed, was inclined to think it an unnecessary interference with an officer's regimental duties, and the younger ones are easily influenced by the opinions of the older; therefore it behoved the inaugurators of this new scheme to use tact as well as show ability to teach: that they have displayed both those qualities in an unwonted degree, the results clearly show.

Besides assisting the younger officers to pass the special examination, instructing the older officers, and in many cases classes of non-commissioned officers, the garrison instructors are expected to assist those officers in military history, who are studying for the Staff College, so that their hands are pretty full; but they really seem to be as anxious to teach as the officers are to be taught.

From what I have just stated, it may be gathered that the system of "garrison instruction" has met with what was, perhaps, to some an unexpected success among the older officers. I must say it was not quite unexpected by me, as I have long been aware of a growing feeling among the officers of our Army to know more of their profession than actual drill and regimental duty, and I consider this feeling has been engendered a good deal by what has happened the last few years on the Continent, and also by the just and conscientious way in which the authorities have adhered to their promise of giving staff employment when possible to those officers who pass through the Staff College, and I have very little doubt that the passing of this special examination will encourage many an officer to try for the Staff College, and it may be almost a preparation for it. In fact, there remain but tactics, military history, and languages to constitute a course that will go a long way towards preparing an officer for the entrance examination. With regard to the former, it is proposed to furnish each garrison instructor with maps of the countries and battles illustrative of the campaigns required to be known every year by the officers going up to the Staff College: and from these they will prepare and deliver lectures to those who choose to attend. Languages are more difficult subjects to grapple with, but most English officers now-a-days know something of either French or German, and as a knowledge of one of these languages or both are nearly a necessity, or at any rate a great advantage to an officer, I would suggest some such arrangement as the following, with a view to encouraging officers in studying them. There should be two standing examiners, to whom any officer on application through his colonel should be allowed to go up for examination. This examination should be a searching one, and great importance attached to the colloquial. On receiving a certificate of having passed, it should be reported to the Horse Guards, who might occasionally send some of these officers abroad to report on their own arm in

some foreign army, as is now done by the Artillery and Engineers. To encourage officers to pass the special examination who at present are not obliged, I would make it a *sine qua non* that the officers selected for going abroad should hold a certificate of having passed in it, as well as in a language.

I will here enter into the question as to advisability or otherwise of still keeping up Sandhurst to its old form. As I have already mentioned, the Prussians object to any professional knowledge being imparted before entrance to the Army, and through the cadet schools, very little military knowledge is taught in them, if any, except, to the two senior classes of their Senior Cadet House in Berlin.

They encourage the admission into the army of young men direct from the public schools, by allowing those who hold a certificate qualifying them for admission to a University, to enter without passing the *Porte par Favorit* examination. By the way, we do the same with graduates of any of our Universities, who are allowed to get commissions without passing the first or entrance examination.

General Walker in an admirable letter to Captain Hozier, Scots Greys, enters fully into this subject, and is of opinion, that though there may be strong reasons for retaining Sandhurst as it was, he would still like to see attendance at a military college, similar to the *Kriegs-schulen* of Prussia compulsory for all who passed the examination for a commission either at Sandhurst or at Chelsea.

The question appears to me to narrow itself to this—Can you teach a man the required professional knowledge better or even as well at, say 23 years old, or 22, as at 16, 17, or 18. If the answer to this question is, as I certainly think it is, yes, it is clearly more advantageous that the knowledge should be acquired after entrance into the Army, and my opinion, though it can have but little weight in the matter one way or other, must be given against resuscitating the Royal Military College as it was. If it is to be kept up to afford a cheaper education to the sons of officers than can be elsewhere obtained, let the education and system be purely civil. I regret much having thus to record my vote against the Royal Military College, as I was a cadet myself, and got my commission without purchase from it.

Another proposal for the future of Sandhurst is, that it be converted into a war school on the Prussian system, and every officer shall pass through it after he has got his commission and served a year.

This idea is doubtless worthy of consideration, but I do not think at present that we need so expensive an establishment, as it would be, though I am free to confess that if our idea of educating the Army intend much, something of the sort must be done.

I may add that the authorities at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, are very well pleased with the result of the present experiment there, the students being much older than the cadets were, being as you are probably aware, young men who have passed the examination for their commissions. The professors seem to think that, though Volunteers, much more is got out of them than out of the former cadets, which I think bears out my theory that men of 20 or 21 will learn professional subjects better than lads of 16 or 17.

As these young men have not yet entered drill is taught them, which is contrary to the Prussian system.

Before closing this paper I wish to refer to a proposal that has been made, and which

is, I believe, advocated by some officer of rank. It is that all this professional instruction should be carried on by regimental instructors.

The principal arguments I have heard brought forward in favour of this scheme are the following:—

1. That the instruction and instructor being more under the command of the colonels of regiments, they would take more interest in the system.

2. That every regiment having its own instructor, when regiments were at stations by themselves, the instruction would still go on.

3. That the young officers would work better under a brother officer than under one who was not.

4. That the instructor himself being a brother officer, would take more interest in his pupils.

Now I will try and answer these arguments *seriatim*, as I think I can:—

1. If the colonel of a regiment does not take an interest in the instruction as now carried out, the experience of musketry instruction does not warrant the idea that, as a rule, he will take any more if it is carried out regimentally.

2. All young officers have three years to pass the examination in, and therefore their regiment would most likely be in a garrison where there was an instructor some part of the three years; and lastly, the cases of officers who have not had an opportunity of attending a course of instruction in a garrison are to be referred for special consideration.

3. If they do, they would work most wonderfully well, as in most cases nothing can be better than the way they work at present.

4. To this I can only say, that I can hardly conceive anyone taking more interest in their work than the present garrison instructor; moreover, I think that the very fact of the instructor being, as it were, one of themselves, and meeting them constantly, and being together, is rather apt to diminish their influence than increase it; while, on the contrary, the fact of the garrison instructor being a recognized staff officer, and though on the most friendly terms, living apart from them, has the effect of increasing their importance in the eyes of their pupils, and with it their influence. Moreover, cases might arise from detachments when a regimental instructor would find himself without a class; and last but not least, 161 instructors would be required, and I do not think that at present they could be procured.

INDIA.—Startling news comes from the British possessions in the East. A despatch from Lord Napier of Magdala to the British Government states that the native princes are secretly arming, with the intention of causing another revolt. Religious prejudices and the operation of the lately imposed income tax are stated to be the causes of the disaffection. Perhaps this news will cause the Gladstone Government to postpone their expressed intention of reducing the number of troops in India.

At a church of "color," about twenty miles from Albany, the other evening, the minister noticing a number of persons both white and colored, standing upon the seats during service, called out in a loud voice "Get down of them seats, both white men and color; I care no more for one than the other." Imagine the pious ministers surprise on hearing the congregation suddenly commence singing in short metre:

Get down of dem seats,
Hoff white man and color
I cares no more for one man
Than I does for the odder.