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PERHAPS at some distant date, says a recently issued service paper, the military historian of England in the latter half of the nineteenth century may recognize and appreciate the remarkable fact that several important devices in the art of war were first suggested and turned to practical use, not by the regular army but by the volunteers. Justice is indeed not yet done, either by regulars or auxiliaries, to the admirable rifles they possess, but it is rather appalling to think how bad the shooting of the British Army would now be if the volunteers had not discovered twenty-seven years ago that marksmanship was a fascinating pastime as well as an all important warlike exercise. The training of cavalry has been revolutionized by the feats which Colonel Bower taught a handful of volunteers to perform. Colonel Alt and his volunteers, in the face of the greatest discouragement, almost amounting to prohibition, proved that machine guns might be usefully employed by other arms than the artillery, and now we have the rifle brigade, or the 60th, practising with the Nordenfeldt or the Gardner, and Prince William of Prussia actually taking back one of the despised machine guns to Potsdam for the use of his famous Guard Hussars. And now it is the volunteers again, under the skilful guidance indeed of a regular officer, who have to show what can be done, from a military point of view, with the bicycle and the tricycle.

ACCEPTANCES of places on the Wimbledon team have been received from eighteen of the first twenty eligible, and who were required to inform the Secretary of the Association not later than Tuesday last whether or not they intended to go. The only refusals were from Sergt. J. A. Armstrong, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, and Sergt. W. M. Goodwin, of the Thirteenth Battalion, Hamilton, both of whom have already been to Wimbledon, going together in 1884, and Armstrong repeating his visit in 1886. Those who have accepted places are Lieut. E. A. Smith, of the St. John Rifle Co.; Sergt. S. Case and Gunner Campbell, of the Halifax Garrison Artillery; Lieut. H. C. Chamberlin, 43rd Batt.; Staff-Sergt. W. Ashall and Pte. W. S. Duncan, of the Queen's Own Rifles; Lieut. C. K. Fiske, 63rd Batt.; Lieut. J. Dover, 78th; Pte. D. Mitchell, 13th, and Lieut. W. Mitchell, 32nd; Lieut. H. H. Gray and Sergt. W. Short of the G. G. F. G.; Staff-Sergt. A. Wilson, 33rd Batt.; Sergt. W. A. Adams, 62nd; Sergt. J. W. Marks, 6th Fusiliers; Pte. R. McAfee, Prince of Wales' Rifles; Capt. G. A. McMicking, 44th Batt.; and Sergt. H. Miner, 71st. The next two men on the list, who have now the chance of the places declined, are Capt. J. T. Hartt,

of the St. John Rifle Co., and Pte. J. H. Morris, of the 45th Batt. The last named has never yet been on the team. Capt. Hartt went in 1878, in 1883, and last year as adjutant, declining a place as a shooting member in order to accept the adjutancy. Of the eighteen who have accepted, seven only have not already been to Wimbledon, these being Messrs. Case, Fiske, Duncan, Adams, Campbell, McAfee, and McMicking. The team is likely to prove one of the strongest ever sent.

INTERESTING comparative experiments have recently been made with the Mossin magazine rifle, in competition with the Russian service rifle, the Berdan. According to reports, Russian officers are greatly prejudiced against magazine rifles generally, and the experiments just carried out appear to lend some semblance of justification to the objections raised. Fourteen shots a minute were fired from the magazine rifle, as against 13 from the service arm. But a new cartridge pouch, the invention of Gen. Wasmund, which was used, is said to have greatly facilitated loading. In four trials the magazine rifle only once gave a larger percentage of hits than the service rifle. Leading military circles in Russia appear to entertain the opinion that a magazine arm would have a chance of being introduced only after the invention of a rifle of extremely small calibre, fired with a smokeless powder.

REPLYING to certain editorial comments which lately appeared in the *Hamilton Spectator*, Lt.-Col. Gibson, M. P. P., the officer commanding that battalion, has published a highly interesting letter in that paper. In this he says: "When you say you would like to see a 'strong battalion all the year round instead of a skeleton organization filling up annually for the purpose of inspection,' you express exactly the views of the officers and men of the battalion who are always to the fore. A strong battalion all the year round necessarily means a well drilled battalion. It means ranks well filled with good men, and in addition a class of recruits undergoing instruction, from among whom can be drawn from time to time those who are duly qualified to take the places of men who leave the city or receive their discharges at the expiration of their term of service. A strong battalion all the year round means a reduction by nearly one-half of the time and attention that officers and some non-commissioned officers and men are obliged to devote to their work in the effort to maintain the companies on a passable footing."

HAVING stated that unfortunately the strength is not maintained in the Thirteenth all the year round, Col. Gibson proceeds to state some reasons, as follows: "It is not for want of qualified officers. In point of knowledge of drill and ability to instruct, the present officers compare more than favourably with any previous company officers, to say nothing of the specially qualified instructors who have been of late available for the battalion generally. The want of proper accommodation for drilling has without doubt operated against the battalion. The quarters temporarily occupied by us, though answering very well as a make-shift for armouries, afford no space for ordinary drill, which we have been obliged to go through as well as we could on the streets and public squares. At the same time a good deal of the foundation or ele-