

passed away, became indissolubly connected with some glorious deed, in its turn becoming a matter of history, adding lustre to the regimental number; and so, gradually but surely, building up that wonderful regimental *esprit de corps* which has stood the nation in good stead on so many occasions."

The book bears evidence of care on every page, yet it is not quite free from those clerical and typographical errors which seem unavoidable in a first edition. The appendices are very useful for reference—more useful than an index in the usual form. The numerous and admirable illustrations, of which 126 are colored, are remarkable for clearness and accuracy.

The Story of a Cavalry Regiment—the Fourth Iowa Volunteers from Kansas to Georgia, 1861-65. By William Forse Scott, late Adjutant.

"The story of this regiment," says the author, "were it not proven, would appear incredible," and we quite agree with him. It makes a very severe strain on our credulity indeed to find that a regiment of any arm could go through four long years of battle and bloodshed, engaged almost daily against heavy odds and a determined enemy, suffering sickness, hardship, and starvation, and when the total butcher's bill is balanced up it turns out that "the romances of chivalry were surpassed" at a cost of 7.5 men per mille per annum killed in action or died of their wounds, and 22.5 died of disease or accident per mille per annum. Many a British regiment serving in India in those years with never the smell of powder, except in the cemetery, to cheer them, would have been thankful to change death-rates with their American comrades, and all of us will be glad to learn that the reputation of heroism can be won at a total risk of life considerably less than half the risks we have already surmounted in the cradle. The author lacks all sense of proportion. The American War was great enough, in the courage displayed on both sides, the total slaughter entailed, and the sufferings borne by all classes, to call for no exaggeration on the part of its historians. Still less do its incidents justify the use of opprobrious epithets, such as "rebels," to the combatants, or sneers at their courage.

Making due allowance for the writer's imperfections, the book is worthy of careful study by officers of all ranks of the service. Some day, perhaps not so very far in the future, we too may be called on to organize in haste our national fighting power, and the experience gained by our kinsmen across the Atlantic should prove of the utmost service to us. The tact necessary to command undisciplined forces, the faults on both sides to be avoided, the impossibility of improvising efficient mounted services, all these lessons may be derived from its pages. Though frequently compelled to dismount and fight on foot by conditions of the ground, it is

very obvious that the intention from the first was to employ the regiment as "cavalry" proper, their armament points to that conclusion, and their record establishes it, and if their charges were not ridden home with the precision displayed by the horsemen of Seydlitz, Le Marchant, and Anglesey, it was not from want of will, or from the greater fire-power against them, but simply because want of training precluded the individual control of the horses necessary to drive them into the enemy's ranks.

The following extract will best show the difficulties which had to be overcome at the start, and if we can hardly suppress a smile at the picture it presents, it will enable us the better to appreciate the zeal and industry of all ranks which ultimately evolved a truly efficient fighting force from such unpromising materials:

"Fully equipped now for the field, the green cavalryman was a fearful and wonderful object. Mounted upon his charger, in the midst of all the paraphernalia and adornments of war, a moving arsenal and military depot, he must have struck surprise, if not terror, into the minds of his enemies. Strapped and strung over his clothes, he carried a big saber and scabbard four feet long, an Austrian rifle or a heavy revolver, a box of cartridges, a box of percussion caps, a tin canteen for water, a haversack containing rations, a tin coffee cup, and such other devices as were recommended to his fancy either as useful or beautiful. . . . His horse carried, on the saddle, a pair of thick leather holsters, a pair of saddle-bags filled with the rider's extra clothing, toilet articles, and small belongings, a nose-bag, perhaps filled with corn, a heavy leather halter, an iron picket pin with long lariat, two horseshoes with nails, a curry comb and horse brush, a set of gun tools and materials for the care of arms, a rubber blanket or poncho, a pair of woollen blankets, a blouse, a cap or hat, and such other utensils and such other articles of clothing or decorations as the owner was pleased to keep. This mass of furniture would weigh, with the saddle, say 70 lbs.; so, including kit on the rider and rider himself, the weight on the horse came to from 200 to 230 lbs. Yet some of the men were not content with the regulation load. They added a set of plate armor to it. Among the scores of articles for various uses which were peddled in the camps within the first year of the war was an 'armored vest.' It was a vest of blue cloth, cut in military style, with two plates of steel formed to fit the body and fastened between the cloth and the lining. . . . and some of the horses had, therefore, 8 to 10 lbs. extra to carry."

By degrees the greater part of this gear was shed; the armored vests went first, and towards the end of the war the wonder ceased to be "how the cavalryman succeeded in getting on his horse or inducing him to move," and became, "how a man could live and exist with so meagre an equipment."

It is worth noting that with an aver-

age of 1,000 men on the rolls the regiment expended 5,000 horses on marches aggregating 6,500 miles. Compare these figures with the expenditure of horses in individual regiments in the Franco-German War, and the contrast between trained and improvised cavalry becomes very striking. The average from all causes throughout the war was 20 per cent., or, allowing for the different duration of the campaigns, about one-quarter the above.

Méthode de Dressage du Cheval de Troupe. Par P. Plinzner.

The above is an abbreviated translation of Pinzner's work in German. A few notes from an eye-witness of his methods may be interesting: "Plinzner, as already stated, is responsible for the training of His Imperial Majesty's horses. His chief difficulty consists in securing men with sufficiently light hands not to injure his horses' mouths, a difficulty with which most horse owners are sufficiently acquainted. The men sent to him are selected from the second year batch of the different cavalry regiments: they possess some natural aptitude for horsemanship, but very little more. The first point is to teach them that the reins are not meant to hold on by, a point often overlooked; the second, to convey to them the feel of a properly trained horse under them, and this is always and everywhere the chief difficulty. Place a young horseman on a lively brilliant animal, and he falls off; place him on a staid wooden-jointed old creak and though he may remain in the saddle he acquires no correct idea of what a horse should feel like under him.

"A horse only goes well in proper balance, i.e., with his weight distributed over all four limbs and the haunches sufficiently under him. This poise depends on the maintenance of the correct position of the head, and can be obtained either by bending the neck according to the 'Baucherian' method, in which all the vertebræ of the neck take their share, or by the bend from the pole of the neck as laid down in our own regulations. Plinzner favors the former, and for his purposes no doubt he is right; this bend also favors the use of the essential feature of his system, viz., the auxiliary reins. These are very simple—two short lengths of indiarubber buckled to either rein and made fast to the saddle. The rider's hands are thus set at liberty and the poise of the horse maintained by the even elastic bearing communicated to the bit. The men are then drilled in the ordinary manner, controlling their mounts only by balance and by leg, and certainly the results are very striking. I have seen the ride negotiate all the usual riding school obstacles, and though the horse's head is, to my mind, carried too low, I have never heard of one of them bringing his rider to grief, and it must be remembered these horses are ridden to the boar-hounds through woods and over broken ground pretty fearlessly. I am aware of the objections to the