

efficient Staff Corps can be organized to carry out the far seeing and enlightened measures the present Administration have intimated they were about to pursue in the question of national defence.

It is to be devoutly hoped that the present session will not be allowed to close before the accomplishment of so desirable an object is effected.

We commence in this issue the republication of the "Report on the State of the Militia," by the acting Adjutant General Lieut. Colonel WALKER POWELL, and our readers will be delighted with the concise, able, practical and well considered suggestions it contains. The returns of the number of the active force that put in the annual drill for a part of the fiscal year 1873-4 is nearly 20,000 officers and men, and subsequent returns will show that out of a nominal force of less than 43,000 over 36,000 will have answered the call of duty in this respect, we should say thoroughly creditable to any force, because it shows that the Canadian militia can muster in proportion to strength a greater number of effectives than any other army. The appendices contain much valuable information, especially the "Memoranda relating to the Military Educational Systems of England, France, Prussia and the United States of America."

Below will be found the General Orders relating to the Staff College for the British army. The course of training is undoubtedly calculated to produce highly educated and scientific officers, but there is a great danger in over doing this portion of a soldier's education, and it is to be feared that "clever" young officers will be more appreciated for their sparkling qualities than for their solid attainments. The tendency in the British army is to push forward the younger officers and to depreciate men whose whole lives have been devoted to acquiring the practical knowledge of their profession. The military history of every country is fraught with examples of the evils of this course, especially that of Great Britain between the times of Marlborough and Wellington. As we are about to embark on a Staff College Scheme of our own, it will not be amiss to publish the curriculum of that of the regular army.

#### THE STAFF COLLEGE.

The Adjutant-General of the Forces, Sir RICHARD ARREY, has issued, by command, the subjoined general order:—

"The accompanying revised regulations for the Staff College are promulgated for the information and guidance of officers of the army, and are substituted for those issued with G. O. 41 of 1860.

"1. The Staff College is open to officers of all arms of the Service, and shall consist of forty students, admission to the college being determined by a competitive examination. Only one officer at a time can belong to the college from a battalion of infantry or a regiment of cavalry, and only ten officers at a time from the two corps of Royal Artillery

and Royal Engineers; but, so far as the exigencies of the Service shall permit, there will be no limitation to the number allowed to compete for admission. Every application to study at the Staff College must be made while the officer making it is present and serving with his regiment, through the commanding officer. No application from an officer on leave will be entertained.

"2. Twenty vacancies will be offered for competition annually, three of which may be filled by officers of the Royal Artillery and two by officers of the Royal Engineers, provided they are among the twenty candidates highest on the list. The principle under which officers are allowed to enter the Staff College being that of pure competition, it follows that candidates who may be found qualified at any examination, but who, from want of a sufficient number of vacancies, cannot then be admitted, will not have any claim to subsequent admission without undergoing another competitive examination.

"3. No payment is required from students to the funds of the college beyond an entrance fee of £3 for an unmarried and £1 10s for a married officer, as a contribution to the college mess funds in addition to the regulated quarterly subscription, and an entrance subscription of three guineas to the college library.

"4. The qualifications requisite for admission are:—(a) A service of not less than five years previous to examination, exclusive of leave of absence (this is not to apply to the usual leave of absence annually granted to officers); (b) a certificate from his commanding officer that the candidate is in every respect a thorough regimental officer; (c) a confidential report (in answer to specific questions) regarding the character, habits, and disposition of the candidate, and his general qualifications for employment on the staff. These questions are to be confidently answered by a board, consisting of the commanding officer and the two next senior officers of the candidate's regiment, (d) a certificate that the candidate, if not a captain, has passed the examination of a troop or company; (e) a medical certificate of good health and fitness for the active duties of the staff.

"5. Commanding officers of regiments will, in every case, forward applications for admission to the Staff College, through the general officer in command, to the adjutant general.

"6. Every candidate, before being admitted to the entrance examination, will, if practicable, be attached for a month to the staff of a general officer commanding a brigade or division, who at the expiration of this period will report confidentially upon the candidate's general fitness for staff employment.

"7. The competitive examination for entrance to the Staff College comprises the following subjects, the relative value of each at the examination being shown by the number of marks attached to it:—

	Marks.
Mathematics, limited to arithmetic, algebra, geometry, plain trigonometry, and elementary mechanics	900
Military history and geography	900
French	200
German	300
Hindustanee	300
Fortification	600
Military drawing	300
Geology, exclusive of mineralogy	300
Chemistry, heat, electricity, and magnetism	300

A qualification will be exacted from every candidate in mathematics. Four hundred

marks will be allotted to arithmetic, the first four books of Euclid, and algebra as far as simple equations inclusive; and of this number at least 250 must be obtained for qualification. 2. Either French, German, or Hindustanee. The qualifying minimum is, in French, 150 marks; in German or Hindustanee, 100 marks. 3. Elementary field fortification. One third of 150 marks, to be assigned to a simple paper, will be required as the qualification in this subject.

"8. The remaining subjects, as well as the higher portion of mathematics, may be taken up or not, at the option of the candidate, the marks gained therein and in the obligatory subject after deducting sixty from the marks gained in each voluntary subject, being reckoned in determining his position in the list of competitors.

"9. In regard to military history, early notice will on each occasion be given of the special campaigns on which questions will be set at the next ensuing examination.

"10. The examination of officers serving in the United Kingdom for entrance to the Staff College is held in London about the month of July, under the direction of the Director General of Military Education.

"11. In the case of officers serving abroad the examination is conducted by means of the same printed questions as are set for the examination of candidates in London. These questions are to be answered in writing in the presence of a board of officers, which will be appointed by the general officer in command, and which will certify that the candidate has obtained no assistance from books or help of any kind in the examination.

"12. Notice will be given of each examination, and detailed instructions will be published annually in the General Orders of the Army. Candidates are recommended to obtain the reports of the past examinations for admission, with copies of the examination papers, published by Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street.

"13. The college course of study commences annually on or about the 1st of Feb. The transmission of the printed examination papers to stations abroad is so arranged that the examinations may be held simultaneously; and the merits of the candidates decided upon in time to admit of those who are successful joining the Staff College by the 1st of February next ensuing.

"14. A synopsis of the course of study will be forwarded to any officer on application to the Director General of Military Education, War Office.

"15. The following are the subjects of instruction at the Staff College, viz:—Obligatory.—1. Fortification and field engineering. 2. Artillery. 3. Topographical drawing, military surveying and sketching, road marking, or photography. 4. Reconnaissance. 5. Military art, history, and geography. 6. Military administration and laws. 7. French, or German, or Hindustanee. 8. Military telegraphy and signalling. 9. Riding. Every officer at the end of the first year shall be required to pass a qualifying examination in practical mathematics, comprising mensuration; the mode of determining heights and distances by ground problems, and by the ordinary trigonometrical calculations with the aid of logarithms, the use of the sextant, and elementary mechanics. This examination, however, shall have no influence upon the final classification of officers. Instruction in mathematics, to the above extent, shall be afforded to such officers as may require it during the first year; beyond this point mathematics shall cease to form part of the course of obligatory instruction at the college. Voluntary.—1. The two languages not