

cooled, or any irritating condition remedied. For instance, should the rim round the heel be pressing on the foot, a very slight padding of cotton wool will rectify this, and a medical officer with a force on the march, I maintain, should never be without this necessity. At the five minute's halt, now generally allowed each hour of a march, ample time is given to remove a shoe like this, cool the foot, and remedy any defect; but when the leggings, trousers, and laced boots have to be dealt with, it will be found a man will generally prefer to run the risk of its getting worse than take all this trouble.

The disadvantages of a shoe are that dust, sand, and other foreign bodies are apt to get in between the rim and the foot, and that there is no support to the ankle. Both of these disadvantages, Captain-Surgeon Beevor claimed, are obviated by his combined spat and legging, which can be tightened or loosed at any point by means of buckles, and thus be made to bring support on any particular weak point.

A boot at present served out for experimentation in the Army is made with the standard screw as a foundation, and a clump sole riveted on with steel pegs. This is a better boot than the one at present in use, as is believed to be the opinion of Mr. Blair, the Inspector of Army Boots. The lecturer then drew attention to another make, in which the sewing and pegging are combined; the sewing is done by hand in the Scots Guards' regimental shoemaker's shop, and designed by the regimental sergeant shoemaker. It is an excellent boot, very easy and pliable.

Cost is of course an important consideration in recommending an article for use in the Army. Now this latter boot costs 12s. a pair to make, retail, in the regimental shop, and it is considered that three pairs of this pattern will last as long as four pairs of those at present in use, which cost 9s. 4d. a pair. In two years, therefore, the country would be saved 1s. 4d. each man, for at present each man is given four pairs in two years, each costing 9s. 4d., which comes to £1 17s. 4d.; and if three pairs were served out at a cost of 12s. each, it would amount to £1 16s.; but this is retail price, and doubtless if tendered for they could be made cheaper, and still further save the country money.

Surgeon-Captain Beevor claimed in support of his suggestion of shoes being substituted for boots, that they can be made more easily than boots, and at a much less cost. A most important point, to his mind, was that every boot or shoe worn by a soldier should have light heel and toe plates.

Most important in connection with the soldier's boot or shoe is the treatment of the "upper" when it has to undergo hard trials; for this various compounds have been designed and their value proclaimed. But it matters little which dubbing is used, so long as it is properly applied, and no dubbing that has beeswax as its base can soak well into leather. The present regulation of making the men oil the boot first and then dubb it is an improvement; but, after many trials, the lecturer suggested that vaseline be substituted for oil. Each soldier should be made to wear his boots or shoes on alternate days; a cap-

ital plan is to make them put on clean socks and the clean spare pair of boots after each march or fighting day, and so give them every opportunity of attending to those that have been worn during the day.

The lecturer strongly recommended a voluntary trial of foot cloths in our Army, and every medical officer would have to be made cognisant with their mode of application, in order that they could educate the men accordingly. The advantages of these foot cloths are their lightness, durability, facility of cleaning, and on a march the rapidity with which they can be changed when hot and damp with perspiration. The regulation, or "ammunition" sock, has many disadvantages; it frequently has knots in the seams, its texture is too rough, and it is too heating to the foot. The absolute necessity of proper fitting need hardly be insisted upon.

In the preventive treatment of a sore foot, the care of the skin forms no small desideratum; the importance of cleanliness cannot be overrated, and frequently the difficulty of enforcing it is great. Many substances have been vaunted for their power of hardening the skin of the feet, and powders and solutions of all kinds recommended; but Surgeon-Captain Beevor stated that after an extensive trial he, for his part preferred common salt or saltpetre. A handful in two quarts of tepid water he recommended as the best hardening solution for the skin of the foot.

The type of sore foot to be found very frequently in the first few days of a march can be best treated by strict attention to cleanliness, the giving of every facility for the man to cool his feet on the march, and the application of a thick layer of common zinc ointment. The German linen foot cloth worn under a cotton sock is undoubtedly a good plan to prevent this type, and when the foot has been well covered with ointment the linen is most gratifying as a covering.

For the treatment of the various kinds of blisters, the stretched outer skin actually enclosing the fluid should not be punctured, because when it is it generally gets torn and broken away, leaving a raw, tender surface exposed. But the needle or knife, or any puncturing instrument, should be inserted in the sound skin, about 1-8 in. beyond the edge of the blister. The needle is then pressed horizontally into the blister, and, if raised, the fluid will run out beneath it. When as empty as possible, the skin protecting the blister should be carefully flattened down, and some cotton wool, lint, or anything that will exert soft pressure, placed over it, and fixed by some strong strapping, by far the best being that called "M. ad's India-rubber Plaster," which can be applied without heat. This is a great advantage. Its adhesive power is quite wonderful, and, being made of linen, it will protect a raw surface and prevent friction.

As to the distribution of some ointment or powder, Surgeon-Captain Beevor expressed his preference for zinc ointment, and stated that it has been found most useful to let each pay-sergeant have a stout earthenware gailipot, and encourage the men to come to him and freely grease their feet before and after a march, brought to a

conclusion a able lecture drawing attention to a serious defect in the equipment and care of the soldier.—United Service Gazette, Jan. 27.

MILITARY GENERAL ORDERS. February 3rd, 1894.

Headquarters Ottawa 31st January, 1894. G. O. (1.) Infantry Drill:—

1. The Infantry Drill as revised by Her Majesty's Command in 1893, will henceforth be used in the Canadian Militia.

2. In placing this book in the hands of the Militia, the Major General Commanding desires to draw attention to the Army Order dated the 1st June, 1893, which is to be found therein, and in particular to the third paragraph of that order.

3. This paragraph lays down the necessity for precision in the early stages of the soldier's instruction, viz: in the squad, section and company's drill.

4. The Major General Commanding desires further to draw attention to General Order (21) of the 24th December, 1891, in which his remarks on the Militia Training are given as follows, viz:—

"The drill of the Company individually, as a company or as a squad, has been neglected. * * * It is then seen that the significance of the Company as a tactical unit, is not sufficiently appreciated, and still less so that of the minor units, half companies and sections."

He trusts that officers will do their utmost to amend this fault.

5. In order that the time available for drill may be utilized to the utmost in a practical manner, the following rules will be observed.—

(a.) Part IX. "Ceremonial" will not be included in course of training of the Militia.

(b.) The Sizing of Companies, Part X, Sect. 222, will not be carried out. Companies are to be sized roughly from flanks to centre, but as cohesion within the section is of more importance than accurate sizing, brothers, relations or "chums" are to be placed in the same section without reference to size.

(c.) Special attention is drawn to Part II, "Company organizations," Sect. 58, General Rules. It will be borne in mind, that the full strength of a company of Canadian Militia should be 32 Files (i. e. 64 Rank and File exclusive of Sergeants and Supernumeraries), and thus that the section should consist of 8 files with a front of 6 yards.

(d.) Companies of a less strength than that given in (c.) are invariably to parade in single rank, and are to be drilled in single rank, in order that all ranks may become accustomed to working with the full company front of 24 yards.

No. 6 Company, Simcoe.—2nd Lieutenant Robert J. H. Rutherford having left limits, his name is removed from the List of Officers of the Active Militia.