

danger of any defects coming to light. We are also informed on the highest authority that the new Lebel rifle (French) is not, so far, a success. The magazine was made to hold seventeen cartridges, but never more than eight can be inserted for fear of jamming. A new magazine, holding only eight cartridges, is now in course of construction.

J. A. Huggins, of Pittsburg, one of the best of American shots, expects to take a team of twelve men to Europe next year. It will be a national team, and he expects it to win more than its share of the great European contests. He thinks that American rifle shooting is underestimated in Europe, and says: "The quality of rifle shooting in our country at present is surprisingly better to-day than it was even five years ago. Scores of men are now making averages that were considered extraordinary a few years ago. Why, about five years ago I went out to a local range and, in presence of several Pittsburgers, made an average of 75. This was considered wonderful, but now an average of that kind amounts to nothing in a contest. There are also nearly 50 per cent. more rifle shooters in America to-day than there were a few years ago. This shows that rifle shooting is increasing more in popularity in this country than anywhere else."

A French staff officer who witnessed the recent review of Italian troops before the Emperor William of Germany is quoted as saying: "Their formation was effected very slowly and with great difficulty. The staff officers galloped about not seeming to know exactly where they were going. The general officers talked loudly and angrily; the colonels shouted; the majors and captains followed the noisy examples of their superiors, and the march past of the infantry was very indifferent. The alignment was decidedly bad, and the men stared about to right and left as if the show was all for their special benefit. Although the officers were more correct they were too noisy. As a rule they were badly mounted and rode poorly. The pace was too rapid for the men, who seemed very much fatigued. The step of the infantry was too long, and the Bersaglieri marched past at almost racing speed. When the race past was stopped the men were all out of breath. The cavalry is badly mounted and the horses are not well trained. The artillery was badly horsed, but manoeuvred tolerably well."

The *Revue Militaire de l'Etranger* gives an interesting description of a new article of clothing just provided for the German infantry, and which serves the double purpose of cloak and camp tent. This cloak is made of waterproof material in the shape of a square, the sides of which measure 5 feet 6 inches, and it is provided, like the old French tent, with buttons and button-holes. By means of a cord which passes through the button-holes the cloak can be fastened round the neck, and it allows a certain portion of the stuff to overlap, thus forming a kind of hood-covering for the head. Another similar cord fastens the cloak round the soldier's waist, and the two corners that fall off from the hood form a kind of cape for the protection of his shoulders. Every man carries on his knapsack a tent-pole divided into three parts, and three small wooden pegs. Two such poles, six pegs, and two cloaks form a complete camp tent for two men. Each cloak, with its tent-pole and three pegs, weighs about 4½ lbs.

The *Akhbar* relates a series of ghastly experiments which were lately conducted at Rheims on corpses, in the presence of General de la Hayrie and of a number of military officers and medical students, to ascertain the effects produced by the bullet of the Lebel rifle. At a distance of 500 yards the head of a corpse was literally smashed to pieces as if an explosion had taken place within it. At 1,000 yards a Lebel bullet went through five bodies in succession. At 500 yards again, when firing at a man's foot, the bullet smashed that limb over a

space of eight inches. While the action of the old rifle bullet was, comparatively speaking, mild, the Lebel bullet fractures the bones in such a frightful manner as to render even amputation impossible!

The London *World* discusses the question whether or not a private soldier should be obliged to salute an officer when the latter is in plain clothes, and says: "He should not, for the obvious reason that the officer, when he puts on multi, lays aside for the time his military attributes, and disguises himself as a civilian. He does so to suit himself; and it is quite unreasonable that the soldier, who is himself prohibited from the assumption of a civilian disguise, should be compelled to be on the alert to recognize and identify persons who have for the time obliterated their military status."

Sir Henry Halford has published a volume on the "Art of Shooting with the Rifle," in which he says that the instructions in the English musketry drill book are both poor and incorrect, inasmuch as the head only (not the body) should be brought round to the target, the body and legs being in one line oblique to it. He also advocates the back position for military purposes, because the best results are thus attained, and hopes that the soldier's equipment may some day be such as to allow him to use "any position which will increase the accuracy of his fire."

The New German Drill-Book.

(United Service Gazette.)

The publication of the new German Infantry Drill Regulations is an event of unusual interest and importance, and this fact is clearly recognized not only in Germany, where "Nation and Army" are practically synonymous terms, but by the chief military authorities throughout Europe. The reform, great as it is, which the new drill-book embodies, is only one of an extensive series of reforms, or rather changes, in the German army which began almost the moment the aged Emperor William had breathed his last, and which had only been delayed by the strong conservatism and advanced years of that monarch.

It was Emperor Frederick, therefore, who suggested the reformation of the existing drill regulations, and it was his son who accomplished the work which the ill-fated father had begun—a work inaugurated by a large number of resignations and promotions in the highest appointments. The new drill-book has a preface signed "William," and bearing the date September 1, 1888, in which are the following words:—"In thankful remembrance of His Majesty my father, now resting in God, I herewith present the army with the new Infantry Drill Regulations, which were framed at his suggestion."

Simplicity and a more complete application of drill to the actual duties of war are the main points which the new regulations aim at, and this is best seen from a comparison of the old drill-book with the new. The alterations which have been made permit of far greater freedom being exercised in educating the soldier for actual fighting, and are in accordance with the progress which has been made within the past few years in the science of tactics generally. It is interesting to note that the number of steps per minute in quick marching has been increased from 112 to 114. Short distances forward or to the side are now taken out of step. Closing to the side, which formerly took up much time, has been done away with, and the difficulties of backward movement have been obviated by allowing the soldier to bend his knee when stepping back. Every possible simplification has been introduced into the method of saluting officers on the part of men marching with or without arms or standing on sentry duty. All the elaborate gymnastics of former times have been abandoned, and only "shoulder arms," and the "parade step" have been preserved. Arms are presented direct from the shoulder. A trifling alteration, the substitution of the German word *Laden* for the Frenchified *Chargirung*, is worthy of mention as being highly characteristic of the present Emperor, whose Pan-Germanic sympathies have already induced him to banish all foreign words from the royal *cuisine*, or *Kuche*, as it must now be called. A point well worthy of note is that the soldier has now invariably to fix the sight of his gun at a certain range, according to the command when practising loading, so that his practice in fixing sights rapidly at any given range is thus greatly increased. The gun is no longer to be lowered when rushing on the enemy for a hand-to-hand encounter. This lowering was extremely inconvenient.