

as the first point in the efficiency of the soldier, to the neglect of his ability to work well and intelligently in the field. As the Austrian general puts it—"Parade drill is a luxury, and only to be indulged in after the soldier has thoroughly mastered his field duties." And to thoroughly ground the soldier of to-day in this latter branch of his work is no difficult task, since he is now fairly educated, and is quite capable of grasping the "why" and the "how," in addition to the "what," provided that they are intelligently explained to him. But it is necessary to the success of the system that the instruction be given by the officer himself in a way that commends itself as thoroughly intelligible and attractive to the pupil. Officers are still to be found who maintain that discipline is irreconcilable with short service, and that it is merely a matter of continuous drill and merciless suppression of all individuality of the soldier; but can there be a doubt in any reasonable person's mind that their ideal is a false form of discipline, a gloss that only stood well in peace, if we may read correctly, between the lines, in the accounts of the Peninsula campaign? If theirs were the true discipline they would be right in saying it could never be instilled into a short-service army; but in our army, at least, there exists germs of a far stronger and less debased form of union between officers and men, which in these days should be more easy of development than formerly. In old days it took an officer some years of service to gain a standing sufficient to impress the old soldiers under his charge, and even then he was, as a rule, ignorant of his duties, and, therefore, not altogether the man that they would entrust with the responsibility of their lives in action. Now all this is altered; after a service of comparatively a few years the officer finds himself an older soldier than any of his men, and, under the influences of compulsory promotion tests, and the more soldierly spirit of the age, he is at least fairly well up in his work. On these grounds alone the young soldiers who come under his charge are inclined from the first to respect him as being an old soldier, and to trust themselves to the direction of his superior knowledge. It only remains for the officer to foster and intensify these sentiments, and he will have forged the true link of discipline that will lead the men to follow him, if called upon, even into the jaws of death. One great component of true discipline is a perfect confidence on the part of the men in the "professional" ability of their leader, and the other is a personal liking for him. The first can only be gained by an officer who thoroughly understands his work in the field, and who has proved it practically both there and in the instruction room. Incompetency, hesitation, or inefficiency on the part of an officer are recognised with greater promptness by his men than by the sharpest inspecting officer, and he never so popular with them in quarters, he will still be deficient of that power over them in action which is neither the result of affection nor fear, but of a confiding deference to superior wisdom, to superior talent, to superior force. Having once gained this position by a self-training and the proper development of his soldierly qualities, the officer will do well to strengthen this relationship by instituting a common bond of sympathy between himself and his men. The first step towards this end is by taking an interest in, and showing respect for, each individual man in order to induce each to beget a respect for himself. The soldier finding himself no longer a mere atom in a herd, but an individual whose efforts to improve himself will be watched and furthered in the right direction, will be encouraged to put forward his best efforts both morally and physically, and will retain the while a lively feeling of gratitude to him who first prompted this improvement. But to attain these desirable ends it is necessary that officers should cast aside the present widely-accepted and exceedingly comfortable doctrine that "lots of drill is all that the men want," and should devote a larger amount of time, energy, and tact to the study of the individual characteristics of their men and the better development of their varying powers. It is worse than useless to endeavour to do this in a disjointed or half-hearted manner; men are like sheep, albeit canny sheep—if one of them recognises in his officer a genuine fellow feeling and desire for his good, the impression will spread like wildfire amongst the rest; but similarly, if one man detects any pretence or display of what is not actually felt, or any desire to curry popularity on the part of the officer, the eyes of all will in a twinkling be also opened to it. A clever and impartial military critic writing in the *Militar Wochenblatt* some time back, said, with a good deal of truth, "The British officers in peace time only play at soldiering," but it is to be hoped that the recent memorandum of the commander-in-chief will bring about among them a closer application to their work, and consequently a closer professional bond between them and their men. In carrying out the above principles the good done to his men reflects back a compensating benefit on the officer. If he be a student of that most interesting of studies, human character, he finds here ready to his hand an entertaining volume, such as no other walk of life could open to him; and if he has anything of the common love of power he cannot fail to be gratified at finding himself possessed of an almost mesmeric influence over his men. It is only then, perhaps, that he thoroughly realises his responsibility, and his advantages over men of his own standing in other

professions for doing good in the world. Besides instilling into his men the best of soldierly qualities, discipline, and efficiency, he can, without posing as a saint or inflicting excessive virtue on any one, do much in the way of spreading among them a good practical morality in the shape of straightforward honesty of thought and purpose. In this way and in one other can, and ought, every officer to do his country a good turn. In the late manifesto of the Social Democrats calling a meeting in Trafalgar Square on the day of the Lord Mayor's procession, the authors issued a bombastic denunciation of the army, with the good feeling so justly attributed to them, calling those who have been defending their interests at the cost of their lives "miserable hirlings." This in the clubs would be glanced at with a smile, but it might have a different effect in the barrack reading room. Tommy Atkins does not always see things in the same light as his officer, although their interests are identical: it therefore rests with the better educated of the two to lead the other, and point out to him the truth of such matters. Tommy Atkins in the pit sees nothing but pathos in the blood-curdling drama, of which the stagey action and utterances are sending his officers into fits of laughter behind the curtains of the box. The child once shown the sheet, turnip, and candle that go to make up its "bogey," instead of cowering before its next appearance, laughingly explains its mysteries to a circle of timid play-fellows. An officer should never meddle with politics, but in these days, when false doctrines are being spread about, and when time-expired soldiers are leaving the colors daily to return to their civil occupations in all corners of the empire, if their minds have been properly formed by the officers during their service, and they have imbibed a strong and honest loyalty for their Queen and country, a considerable leaven of good seed is scattered abroad which will on its own ground, and without forcing, effectually check the artificial growth of the poisonous weed of socialistic agitation and other fungi threatening to rot the roots of the Constitution, by verbose agitators, whose real aim is the filling of their own pockets with the hard-earned pence of a gullible public. Wherefore, by exercising aright his professional superiority, and making full use of his moral influence, the British officer has it in his power, especially in these days of short service, so greatly to improve the relations between officers and men as enormously to promote the efficiency and make lasting the discipline of that army of which the whole nation is so justly proud.—*Broad Arrow.*

Field Duties and the Requirements of the Times.

A GOOD deal continues to be written and said about the late memorandum of the Commander-in-chief as to the want of knowledge among all ranks as to the performance of field duties. Now, whatever deficiency exists in the points animadverted on, we do not hesitate to say that the great body of the officers of the army are not only willing but eager to learn, and only require to be instructed; but this instruction they cannot receive unless the superior officers are willing and able to impart it. We heard a great deal at one time about the deficiencies of commanding officers, but were led to believe that a system of selection had been adopted which would at all events ensure the country against incapable officers being selected for commands. There may be great difficulties in peace time in the way of selecting the most capable officers, but there is no difficulty whatever in rejecting the incapable ones; they are known to every one.

Now the fact is, we have not got rid of the old leaven; there still remains at the top of the military hierarchy a proportion of officers who, whilst hardly venturing to say that military progress is a mistake, do not believe in it, and do not welcome it, and this fossil element is, strange to say, not without its representatives in the Press. Nothing but the bitter experience of a European campaign will convince such as these of the necessity for the training in which His Royal Highness has declared them to be wanting.

But we must confess that the higher military authorities themselves are not innocent of the fault of lagging behind the requirements of the times. Are there not many important questions closely affecting the efficiency of the army still undetermined? Whilst the great continental nations are providing themselves with the best form of repeating rifle, we are still tinkering about a new and, as we have attempted to show, an unimproved type of the single Martini-Henry.

Again, whilst it has been proved to the satisfaction of the best military critics, after close examination of the lessons taught by the great battles of the Franco-Prussian and Russo-Turkish campaigns, that movements in close order can no longer be attempted in the face of a determined enemy armed with modern weapons, the drill book provided for our infantry goes no deeper into the subject than the movements of a battalion, and we are still experimentalising as to what may be the best form of attack.

Further, the army corps formation, which in continental armies is a reality, is with us but a name. During the last twenty-five years we have