

THE BOMBERS' SECTION

(By Lieut. A. B. Carey)

Another result of Colonel Ross's experience at the front is shown in the formation of a new section for training, technically called the "Bombers Section." The men in this section will receive instruction in the general properties, the handling, and in the throwing of bombs or grenades.

As is known from the news at the front, the ancient art of using hand-thrown bombs has been revived and now is playing a very important part in the present struggle. A great many varieties of bombs are used at the front, the most interesting of which are undoubtedly those made by the soldiers themselves. These can be manufactured from jam pots, bottles, etc., in fact, anything that can be filled with powder and missiles, and are usually exploded by a fuse.

The fuse must have a correct length, as, when it is too long it is picked up and thrown back by the enemy, and when too short it explodes before being thrown—either case being very embarrassing to the thrower.

The course of instruction given the "Bombers' Section," as outlined, will consist, roughly, of a thorough training in judging time, in the properties of



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fuse, correct cutting and lighting of same, the general subject of the manufacture of bombs, the running from cover and throwing over entanglements and into trenches, and an outline of general tactics covering the use of bombs. This is instruction that is usually given in England, but it is Col. Ross's idea that to secure thorough training all branches should be carried on concurrently here, thus giving the men a grounding that will enable them to easily acquire any further perfection of training required in the Old Country.

The "Bombers' Section" will also receive instructions in putting up barbed wire entanglements, digging trenches, and other general military "minor" engineering.

Despite the fact that bomb throwing is known to be very dangerous work, the bombers section being popularly called the "Suicide Club," a great many more men volunteered for the training than can receive it at the present time.

The ranks of the section are composed of ball players, lacrosse players, etc., the men being chosen from those giving promise of being courageous, self-reliant and cool headed in any sudden and trying emergency.

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