

has a hand wagon, horsed only in time of war. None can tell as yet how the Russian commissariat, which broke down so fatally during the Crimea, will now stand the crucial test of war.

Although the deficiency of medical officers is still very serious, the regulations which govern that department are wise and provident. To provide a due number of surgeons, the Government gives a free education at the Medical University, in return for three years' service in the army when required. In the field, regimental and divisional hospitals are organised; but this is not all. In addition, each squadron, company, or subdivision of two guns, is attended by a trained apothecary, provided with proper medicaments and surgical appliances. Besides this, the officers' servants and unarmed men are taught the leading principles of military surgery, and drilled periodically in the most approved methods of removing the wounded from the field of battle and affording them temporary relief. Moreover, in some regiments the senior surgeon gives occasional lectures to the officers and men on the first steps to be taken when wounded, if skilled assistance is not at hand. It is also in contemplation to provide each man with a roll of lint. The present sanitary condition of the Russian Army is considered to be in all respects satisfactory; but rheumatism and consumption are undoubtedly on the increase, mainly through the poor lodging of the troops. The Guards have barracks, but the troops of the Line are billeted in the peasants' huts, and if there is not sufficient room in one district, in contiguous villages—every regiment being brought together under canvas from May to October. Barracks are about to be erected, it is said, but it must be long ere they exist.

The infantry of the Russian service is undoubtedly the most important arm, not only from its numerical strength, but also from its high state of efficiency. It consists of 188 regiments—of which ten belong to the Guard—with 580 infantry and thirty two rifle battalions. Most regiments consist of three battalions of four companies, and one rifle company. The three rifle companies of a regiment are formed into a battalion in the field. There are four establishments which regulate the strength of a battalion—the war establishment, with 900 rank and file; the augmented peace establishment; and the *cadre* establishment, with 320 rank-and-file. It may also be said that each regiment has a fourth, or reserve battalion—for there is one which bears its number but not its name, and which trains the recruits during the first six months; but it is in every detail quite independent. Although most regiments bear the names of a locality or an illustrious personage, they are quartered quite irrespectively. A company of infantry on the war footing has four officers and 211 non-commissioned officers and men.

The Russian Infantry is at present armed with the Krinck converted rifle, but the Berdan breechloader will shortly be issued to the whole army. The weapons of all, except those of the rifle companies, and eight picked shots per company, whose sights are adjusted to 1200 yards, are only sighted up to 600 yards. The men carry ninety rounds of ammunition, besides which forty rounds are conveyed in the company transport, and sixty more with the artillery reserve. Bayonets always fixed. In spite of the 68lbs, (including three days' provisions) which the Russian foot-soldier has to carry, it is questionable if he has any rival on the march. With their trousers tucked into long boots, the Russian infantry step out

so fast that, once a hundred yards ahead, no walking effort will diminish the distance; and thus they go on, day after day, existing on food upon which English troops would starve. Great attention is paid to gymnastic exercises. Not a barrackroom or a camping ground but is provided with apparatus on which the men practise daily. The bayonet exercise is also much cultivated; and by means of matches and other encouragements, reaches a high point of perfection. When contending parties meet in sham fights, they charge through each other, holding the rifles perpendicularly aloft, to prevent the men falling into a habit of halting before a real charge.

The movements of the Russian infantry are loose, but very rapid. On the march they generally move in column of sections, though fours are also employed. But to make the infantry wholly independent of the other arms, ten men per regiment are annually attached to the artillery, so that there are always eighty men (with eight years' service) available to help that arm in case of need; while eight men per company carry entrenching tools, and have been instructed in throwing up temporary works. Besides, most men can use the hatchet—all wooden buildings in Russia are built with the hatchet alone—and can cook and sew. Therefore, together with the company transport system and bearers of the wounded, a Russian infantry regiment is completely independent of extraneous aid: a state of matters which adds greatly to its efficiency.—*Military Correspondence of the Telegraph.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

TACTICS.

(For the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.)

Should these comments upon the present aspect of military affairs prove—as they must—provokingly inconclusive, the too evident incertitude and transiency of the tactics of the day, may be referred to in extenuation.

Is it not too generally admitted that the conditions of war have radically changed, at least, to the extent some alarmed Tacticians would insist. No doubt the deadlier effect and far searching range of modern missiles, will imperiously dictate a more distant combat and looser formations for the attack and defence. These conditions naturally demand a discipline that shall develop in the soldier a ready preception of, and prompt seizure of cover. The tenacity and courage with which this advantage is clung to will, I presume, be held to constitute the highest merit in troops. But in this assimilation to the red Indian's mode of warfare, we must be prepared to accept a degree of demoralization in the combatants. Yet so little had the more destructive effect of firearms been able to control the fierce exigencies of actual combat, that the Franco-Prussian war teems with instances suggestive of the *elan* of old times, and with like results. Tactics may lecture upon, and even cite

authentic examples of almost utter annihilation to close formations under fire: but does it make it less inevitable that the *dernier resort*—the charge—must call upon a denser formation than the open file line, and, however short the space traversed in such order, at whatever sacrifice, it must push home to win a stubbornly contested action. This, if it approximate the truth, sounds very ancient, nor is the tone suggestive of a requiem to the manes of exploded systems, that instinctively rest upon principles of "War's last Art," that are immutable. Pardon this discursiveness and *en avant*. There is no reason to dread the present system of drill in the British and Canadian forces does not develop a flexibility competent to most, or conformable to every tactical evolution which theorists dream of, or Feutonic abstraction deems practical. Thus has been touched as briefly, as imperfectly, the salients which constitute, or is likely to become the difference between existing and future tactics. The moral to be deduced from this I fear, heterodoxy, is, that the forces can afford to wait and watch the logic of events with greater equanimity than those that have graduated through the school which produced the practical mobility and stern simplicity of the thin red line.

SABREUR.

New Hamburg, 29th January, 1873.

MONTREAL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

His Excellency the Governor General is spending no idle time here. He is constantly visiting some public institution or another and is making himself deservedly popular.

His Excellency the Governor-General attended by his Secretary, and accompanied by Lieut. Col. Bond and Capt. Barnjum, visited the Sergeants' Mess Room of the 1st or Prince of Wales Rifles, where they were received by Sergt. Major Johnson, who most cordially welcomed His Excellency to their reading room (the only volunteer one it is believed in Canada). His Excellency leisurely inspected the room, looking at the various newspapers and took special notice of the *Belfast Weekly Times*, admired the numerous photographs and engravings with which he expressed himself much pleased, and complimented the non-commissioned officers on their enterprize in getting up such a comfortable and convenient room. The following members were then introduced:—Sergts. Quinn, Porteous, Bruce, Donnelly, Q. M. Sergt. Harman, Sergt. Mallin, Corp'l. Trainer, W. Wilson and others, and after a few minutes' conversation on rifle shooting, His Excellency withdrew.

On Friday His Excellency accompanied by Mr. Hamilton, A. D. C., paid a visit to La Salle d'Asile Nazareth, St. Catherine street. He was received by the Lady Superiors