

Chapter I.—Continued

3. An excessive use of wire gauze on the pull-through.

When a rifle barrel is new the interior of the bore carries a high polish, and so long as this is retained it is a safeguard against rust and metallic fouling.

Rust is not fouling, but a result of fouling or carelessness in cleaning.

Fouling is of two kinds, Superficial and Internal.

Superficial Fouling is caused by the solid products of the explosion being deposited in the bore of the rifle, and may be removed by flannelette and the pull-through oiled and dried alternately.

Metallic Fouling or Nickelling is a Superficial fouling caused by a portion of the nickel jacket of the bullet adhering to the bore of the rifle in its passage through it.

In the Mark III. Ross Rifle its first appearance is usually near the muzzle at the foresight sleeve, and may be observed as small specks of white on the lands.

The soldier should not attempt to remove this himself, but should turn in the rifle to the Armourer, who will treat this with a chemical solution of nickel solvent.

Internal Fouling cannot be seen. It is caused by the forces of explosion driving the gases into the pores of the rifle. This kind of fouling can only be removed by the use of boiling water, which causes the steel of the barrel to expand, opening up the pores and allowing the imprisoned gases to escape.

The first application of the boiling water does not remove all the imprisoned gases, and these exude for a period of three days after firing, and cause sweating of the bore, which must be removed daily by a piece of dry flannelette until it comes through clean.

In Daily Cleaning wipe the outside of the rifle and the mechanism dry and clean and free from dust, and oil well with the Russian petroleum, which will be issued.

In Weekly Cleaning clean the bore of the rifle rag-clean, wipe off the outside and mechanism, and re-oil inside and out

Cleaning before Firing—Wipe out the bore perfectly dry, clean off all surplus oil from the mechan-