

matter of serious reflection. It is well known that Mr. or we should now say Viscount CARDWELL, was lauded as being the man who could "deal heroically with antiquated nuisances," such as the former organization of the British army was said to be. That in consequence some two years ago he brought his great scheme for reorganization before parliament, and in order to force on the people of Great Britain his now fangled idea with the aid of his colleagues he was obliged to violate constitutional usage, and the Viscount deliberately insulted his Sovereign. Well, the upshot of the whole has been that a Royal commission has been sitting for over a year investigating the grievances inflicted in the offices of the army by the Reorganization Scheme, and it has developed such cases of crying injustice, turpitude, and favoritism, as to fully warrant the assertion made in this Journal at the time, that army reorganization measure was before the House of Commons, that the whole measure was framed in the individual interests of of the Administration that it would be a "failure, was a delusion, a mockery, and a snare." The collapse of the administration, was followed by the downfall of the great basis of the system control, while the very mode of promotion is open to the objection that favoritism, or the caprice nepotism, or perhaps, more unworthy motives of the civil element in the Secretary at War's Office will have more to do than real merit in bringing to the front the future leaders of the army. Amid all this confusion the interests of the rank and file, the poor man for whose benefit Messrs. GLADSTONE and colleagues were supposed to be particularly engaged and intrusted, has been systematically ignored; although the cost of the army has been increased 60 per cent. to the country, the pay of the private soldier has not advanced in a corresponding ratio, or at all, and as a consequence the difficulty of recruiting has been enhanced, so that the statements of the lecturer points out that the only men who can be got to guard the honour and interests of Great Britain are from the class that ancient philanthropist JOHN BRINT elegantly styled the residuum of the population.

Apart from all this, the lecture is instructive as showing how a military organization in a wealthy and mighty nation can be mismanaged by ignorant calculations.

"On Monday the 2nd inst., an interesting and valuable discussion was brought about on our present military strength by the reading of a paper by Dr. A. Leith Adams, F.R.S., surgeon-major of the London recruiting district, on "The recruiting Question, from a Military and Medical Point of View." The chair was taken by Colonel Stevenson, and after the usual business of the society had been carried out, the lecture was delivered to an audience of about a hundred officers, who listened with great interest and attention throughout.

"Dr. Adams commenced by stating his reluctance in bring the subject before them in a detailed manner, but said he was obliged to do so if he could expect to treat his sub-

ject with success. A most fearful aspect was presented to him in viewing the untimely falling off in the stamina of the army, which he thought was much connected with doing away with pension and the establishment of the short-service system. They had been unable to obtain recruits of sufficient numbers, height, or efficiency since the Crimean war. He compared this falling off with the great increase of the population, and added that at one time excellent recruits were actually turned away because they were not wanted, and this especially applied to Ireland, as was evident from the following table—

Recruits Inspected per 1000.

	1860	1872.
England	566	820
Ireland	321	724
Scotland	107	100.8
Colonies	6	6.8

And he was convinced it would always be so under the existing arrangements. The minimum height and age of the undermentioned armies he had reckoned as follows:—

	Height.	Age.
British Army	61.5	18
German Army ..	61.8	20
French Army	60.3	20

which he thought was an important medical subject; as also that the recruits were taken in the English Army between the age of 18 and 25, while in the Swedish they were taken between the age of 17 and 30. He particularly mentioned that the height of the English, which, with the Germans, might be considered the tallest of the European nations, should always be borne in mind in recruiting, as it was found that the stamina of men in the shorter races was more frequently greater than that of men of corresponding height in our own country. He could not help thinking that the reduction in the stamina of the army was greatly owing to a like change taking place in the English race, owing to the great increase of our manufacturing pursuits, growth of large towns, and emigration, especially from Ireland, a question which might become, sooner or later, of national importance. He advocated great attention being paid to the maintenance of an effective body of men during peace, as during war-time inferior recruits were enlisted, which would by itself sufficiently impair the stamina of the army without being aided by past effects. Dr. Adams then drew attention to the following table, which he thought very well showed the decrease in the stamina of the troops of the Line regiments during the last twenty eight years per 1000:—

	Height.	1845.	1873.
Under 5ft. 6in.		105	361
From 5ft. 6in. to 5ft. 7in.		473	433
From 5ft. 7in. to 5ft. 8in.		204	111
From 5ft. 8in. to 5ft. 9in.		111	62
From 5ft. 9in. to 5ft. 10in.		74	15
From 5ft. 10in. to 5ft. 11in.		16	12
From 5ft. 11in. to 6ft. 0in.		17	3
		1000	1000

The age of enlistment, he thought, ought to be not under twenty, but in our voluntary system we had to go down to eighteen, which in many respects was an advantage, as tending to keep out men of more mature age who too often fell in ranks after being thrown into unfortunate circumstances of their own making, and the younger they were the easier it was to train them to their work. He was convinced that the British soldiers were much in advance of other armies in comfort, which was a cause of congratulation. The general feeling of men in

the army was, and he thought should be, "Once a soldier always a soldier," but sometimes they enlisted because of the pay or the future, both of which had been more interfered with, the net pay being about 7d. per day in the Regulars, and only 4d. in the Reserve, while the pensions had been taken away altogether. He suggested that 21. a day should be granted to them and be placed compulsorily in the savings bank, so that on their completion of service a little sum would be accessible to start them in business. The mode of popularising the army it is evident has yet to be found, and the reserve could not be depended on when it is greatly composed of men who have been discontented while serving under the colours, and who on being drafted to their localities have not even a coat to their back. The Act of 1871 had fallen short of its good object, as no plan could be considered successful which did not provide an efficient reserve; and he asked why should not the soldier who goes abroad to sickly climates, who risks his life and parts with friends, be rewarded more in comparison than he is with the artisan who remains at home and receives his four or five shillings a day; no wonder recruiting was so slack. The Militia, he thought, should be brought closer to the army, the men being drilled more in company with the Regulars; that they should be quartered in barracks instead of tents, and that a little more inducement should be given for soldiers to serve on who having been trained would prove of great benefit to the army. The lecturer concluded by saying that England should ever preserve the position she has obtained by her voluntary army, and that the only mode of doing so was to keep up the numbers and stamina of the men, and the valour would take care of itself. Dr. Cameron expressed his regret that the management of the army was entrusted to a person unacquainted with army routine, who crowned warrants with counter warrants, and altered the pay of the soldiers by pennies and halfpennies. There was no encouragement for good men to enlist under the present arrangement while they could obtain such much better terms elsewhere, and while the is invariably looked upon as the drags of society. When he went to India his pay was increased from under £400 to £1000, but that of his hospital sergeant had no increase whatever, which naturally was discovered, and caused discontent; and another cause of ill-success was, that while the officers entered the army as a profession for life, the soldier only served for a sufficient period to unfit him for any other work.

Sir Percy Douglas was of opinion that the short-service system had failed, and that therefore an inefficient result would naturally be the result. There was some very clever men at the War Office, but let them twist and twist the regulations as much as they might, they would never be able to get a good man for less than he is worth. The Commander in Chief was actually paying the bounty to the Militia and not to the Regulars, which caused the men who should be enlisted in the army to go to the Militia. He suggested that if an efficient Reserve could not be obtained in the Militia regiments, and the regular army should be fed from those ranks, which had a better choice of men than could be obtained by the present mode of recruiting, and he felt confident, though against his wish, that the present Reserve scheme would not succeed. Colonel Evelyn thought that to popularise the army a system of deferred pay should be introduced. He referred to the utter failure