

second class sergeants, and from the third corporals.

These officers and non commissioned officers are held responsible for quietness and good behaviour in the barracks and barracks rooms, and for the discipline of the squads marching to class rooms or elsewhere, they also command at parades, before the parade is handed over to the regular officers.

In regard to discipline the closest supervision is exercised over the cadets at all hours and under almost all circumstances; and when the number of officers, 50, is considered in comparison with the number of cadets, 246, little difficulty can be found in carrying out the system. At the same time a principle of honour is inculcated into the minds of the young men, and has become identified with their feelings. A cadet's word is believed, and the cadet officer and non commissioned officer receive the support of their comrades in execution of their duties.

To illustrate clearly the system pursued at West Point, it may be well to follow the career of a young man from his first nomination up to the time of his passing the final examination. To obtain admission into the Academy, a nomination is necessary from the Secretary of State for War, on the recommendation of the representative in Congress of one of the several districts then unrepresented in the Academy. Each congressional district, and there are now 300 is entitled to one representative. Several of these districts, however, fail to send cadets, owing to the distance the sparse population, and the difficulty in some districts of obtaining sufficient education to enable the lads to pass the required examination. In addition to this mode of admission, the President of the United States is allowed to nominate ten cadets in each year generally selected from sons of officers who have served or are serving in the army.

The nomination is followed by a qualifying examination in the month of June if possible, if not in August. A knowledge of English reading and writing, an acquaintance with the first four rules of arithmetic of reduction, simple and compound proportion, vulgar and decimal fractions, of the elements of the English grammar, of geography, and of the history of the United States, is all that is considered necessary, the object being that the common schools of the country accessible to all should be able to furnish sufficient education for entrance into the Academy.

As the age of admission is from 17 to 22, the qualifications demanded are not high, and are in the reach of the vast majority of the people. Many of the candidates are, of course, educated beyond these requirements, and it is found practically that unless a young man has received instruction somewhat in excess of that demanded, he will, except he possess great ability and power of application, fail in the subsequent examinations, and consequently be forced to leave the Academy.

The cadet, who, by the way, must not be less than five feet in height, has to pass an examination by a Medical Board, to ascertain whether to use the words of the regulations, "he possesses the requisite physical ability to serve his country in the arduous and laborious station of a military officer, not only at the time of his examination, but during his life, until he shall be disabled." Having satisfied these conditions, he is required to take an oath of allegiance to the Constitution and Government of the United States, the oath since the war of 1861,

specifying the priority of allegiance to the United States over any that may be due to an individual state. He then becomes liable to military service for eight years, if so required.

Supposing him to have joined in June, he is at once allotted to a company according to his size, and goes into camp. During the two months he is under canvas, he becomes acquainted with his class mates, and selects one of the same company (to which his choice is limited), to share his room.

When study commences at the end of August, he passes into the fourth or lowest class to rise yearly in turn, and after examination, to the third, second and first classes. During these four years, the following course of instruction is pursued.

1. Infantry, artillery, and cavalry tactics; and military police and discipline.
2. Use of the sword, bayonet, &c.
3. Mathematics.
4. French language.
5. Spanish language.
6. Drawing.
7. Chemical physics, chemistry mineralogy and geology.
8. Natural and experimental philosophy.
9. Ordnance, gunnery, and the duties of a Military Laboratory.
10. Ethics, and National, International and Military Law.
11. Practical Military Engineering Military Signalling, and Telegraphing.
12. Military and civil engineering, and the science of war.

As the cadet is supposed to have received, and in many instances has received, only

*NOTE.—It has never been necessary to insist on the fulfillment of this proviso, by unwilling cadets, as commissions are valuable prizes, and by far the greater majority make the army their career for a much longer period than that stipulated.

the most elementary education before reaching the Academy, it must be granted that to acquire in any useful degree a knowledge of the subjects contained in this catalogue of studies, will require close and almost incessant application. Such, on reference to the regulations for the employment of time proves to be the case.

From early morning until bed time, the cadet's time is mapped out and occupied; study, parades, and military exercises succeed each other with little intermission; and relaxation is afforded, not by amusement, but by a change of study, or by the training of the body in place of the mind. Excepting on Saturdays and Sundays, when the period of leisure is somewhat extended, the cadet has never more than half an hour at a time for recreation, supposing that he employs, as is intended, the time he remains in his room for private study. The system is to give instruction in the class rooms at what are termed recitations, after the lessons set by the professors or assistant professors have been prepared privately in the cadets' room.

The several classes are paraded in small detachments, generally of not more than twelve, and marched to the class rooms, which are airy and fully large enough for the number they contain.

Every cadet is usually called up and examined *circa voce* at each recitation, notes prepared from memory and written on large slates attached to the wall being permitted to assist the replies. The most complete silence and the greatest attention is enforced and becomes a habit, the small number under instruction permitting of the closest supervision. The following table of the employment of time will give an idea of the careful manner in which each day's work is mapped out.

Table of the Employment of Time at the United States Military Academy.

Class.	From 7 o'clock to 7:30 a.m.	From 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.	From 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.	From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.	From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	From 4 p.m. to sunset.	From sunset till call for quarters.	From Evening call to Half-past 9 p.m.	From 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.
First.	Roll call.	Recitation in Civil and Military Engineering and Science of War, &c., or Drawing in these branches of Study.	Recitation in Ordnance & Gunnery, Cavalry Exercise Study.	Recitation in Ethics, Law or Ordnance and Gunnery, Mineralogy and Geology.	Study.					
Second.	Roll call.	Recitation in natural and experimental Philosophy.	Recitation in Chemistry, Cavalry Exercises Study.	Drawing, and scrape with lead pencil, Landscape with colors, Recitations in Tactics Study.	Study.					
Third.	Roll call.	Recitation in Mathematics Study.	Recitation in French, Spanish Study.	Drawing, Topography with lead pencil and ink and colors, Figures with pen and ink, Study.	Study.					
Fourth.	Roll call.	Recitation in Mathematics Study.	Use of the Sword, &c. Study.	Recitations in French Study.	Study.					

Tattoo at half-past 9; signal to extinguish lights and inspection of rooms at 10.