



I. MUZZLE LOADER CARTRIDGE. (From the early days to about 1850).—Merely a package or roll containing the correct measure of black powder and the ball. It is made of strong brown paper, tied at the end where the ball lies and folded at the end where, to load, it would be torn open.

II. DREYSE CARTRIDGE. (1850).—Designed for the needle gun of the same name. The ball lies behind the knot. A wad holds the primer. The long firing pin or needle of the gun had to penetrate the cartridge base and travel through the powder to strike the priming.

III. SHARPE'S CARTRIDGE. (1850).—The design of an American of that name. This particular specimen has a shell of brass, black powder charge, no primer. The shell is provided with a hole in the base to allow the flash of the percussion cap to enter.

IV. LEFAUCHEUX OR "PIN-FIRE" CARTRIDGE. (1835).—A metal shell holds the lead bullet and the black powder charge. The primer lies in a cavity in the base. When loaded into the weapon the protruding pin is taken up in a slot. A blow of the hammer flashes the priming.

V. RIM FIRE CARTRIDGE. (1870).—Similar in construction to the present day .22 cartridge. Note priming compound round the base rim.

VI. SNIDER CARTRIDGE. (1860).—Paper shell, metal base and centre fire primer.

VII. WRAPPED BRASS MARTINI HENRY CARTRIDGE. (1871).—Sheet brass wrapping, metal sheathing and base. Centre fire primer. Bullet is paper wrapped.

VIII. SOLID DRAWN BRASS MARTINI HENRY CARTRIDGE. (1880).—Very much the same as our present day bottle-neck rifle cartridge. It is of solid drawn brass. Centre fire primer.

it is intended for. The shell is of brass or similar metal, the primer is the small nickel coloured part with the functions of a spark plug which lies in the base centre of the shell. The propellant is one of a variety of smokeless powders or forms of cordite. The revolver bullet is made of lead, generally hardened with tin or antimony or both, hollow based, grooved and greased. The rifle bullet has a core of lead and an aluminum tip, both encased in a nickel jacket.

The evolution of the cartridge is interesting. The accompanying illustration of some of the specimens in my collection, I believe covers the different stages of progress or development. I gave a description of the various types in my previous article so I will not digress further from the subject I have set out to deal with.