

ever, of this neglect and change of fashion I still venture to maintain that the sword, as it is the oldest, is still the queen and noblest of weapons. Sad it is that we, the British, are the only nation in the world who have learnt to undervalue and despise this time-honored weapon. All modern experience has proved that there are moments in many actions when hand-to-hand fighting may ensue, and woe to the army or the soldiers who trust alone to the bullet. In night attacks, as at Tel-el-Kebir, and such manœuvres as were inaugurated lately by Sir Evelyn Wood at Colchester, in the assault of entrenched positions, vedette and outpost duties, and above all in Arab and Eastern warfare, where the sword still holds its own as the weapon of honor, the art of fence will still maintain its value. But beyond this, the soldier should be taught that a good swordsman at close quarters has immense advantages over his adversaries, however he may be outnumbered. Modern discipline and musketry training tend to make the soldier an excellent and reliable machine, and to give him a sort of impersonal and impassible courage which helps him in pitched battles and strategic movements under fire. But there are chances, especially in savage warfare, where more than this is required, and where the soldier must become a unit and assert his courage individually. The cool impassibility which wins prizes at Wimbledon, where all emotion and enthusiasm must be suppressed and the competitor becomes a statute, is too often at fault in the *melee* or the skirmish. The bayonet won Inkerman, and asserted itself splendidly at the Alma; while I venture to believe that the said weapon and the sword combined, with a dash to close quarters, would have cleared the Majuba Hill of the Boer marksmen, who were allowed to shoot our men down from safe covert, like rabbits in a *cul-de-sac*. Military courage is of two orders, and its actual shape derives from particular training. Firearms and their employment in modern battles have developed collective at the expense of individual bravery, and as the sword went out of fashion, the habit of self-reliance, personal activity, rapidity of movement, physical strength, dexterity, and certainty in eye, hand, and foot, became gradually subordinated to that placid, mechanical, motionless, impersonal, and collective valor which is so valuable on the chessboard of strategic and even tactical warfare, until some miscalculation or surprise is made, and the trained rifleman finds himself face-to-face with a more brawny antagonist than himself, who "goes for him" with spear or tulwar. The courage engendered and trained by the rifle is contemplative, obedient, passive, and unemotional; that taught by the sword gave the soldier self-reliance, the feeling of personal responsibility, the habit of resource, the consciousness of power, and, sentimentally we may add, the sense of manhood, of dignity, and of honor. These are qualities which should be attributes of the true soldier.

The present infantry sword exercise is, and has been for years, so ridiculously defective, that it excites the just contempt of any English officer trained in a foreign school. The French divide fencing into two parts; namely *l'escrime à l'épée*, ou *l'escrime pointée*, and *escrime au sabre* ou *l'escrime contre pointée*, or, as we understand it, the use of the small sword or rapier for thrusting only, and that of the broadsword and sabre for cut and thrust. All true swordsmen, and to them I appeal, will know that the one branch of this noble art is the complement of the other, and that the man who has "carte and tierce" at his fingers' ends will be the best man with the heavier weapon. For these reasons I trust that the few officers in our Army—and I would name Colonel Hon. Paul Methuen and Captain Alfred Hutton as bright examples—who have endeavored to revive this almost lost art, will continue to use their influence and example towards making fencing popular in the service. The days of the sword are not numbered. No matter to what precision firearms can be improved, soldiers of all nations must sometimes meet face-to-face and hand-to-hand. At El Teb, Tamai, and elsewhere, neither rifle, Gatling, nor revolver could keep our squares intact; and, on more than one occasion, the Arab with several bullets in his body succeeded in spearing our ill-trained infantry, while in these hand-to-hand encounters, our dismounted cavalry would have been glad indeed to feel the trusty blade at their side. Of all gymnastic exercises, fencing is the most useful to the hand, foot, muscle, and eye of the soldier. Let us then cultivate this noble art in our army.

A number of French Canadian residents of New York have joined in a subscription and presented to Gabriel Dumont, the commander of the Metis in Riel's rebellion with a handsome gold medal which cost \$100. It is composed of bar and pin, upon which is engraved a rising sun, emblematic of the advance of the race for which Louis Riel offered his life. Suspended from this bar by a ribbon of the tricolor of France is the medal, a heavy circle of gold, engraved with a figure of a Metis protecting fallen liberty. Surrounding the figure is the inscription, "Patria et Justitia." There are three bars of gold upon the ribbon bearing the names of the three battles in which Dumont took part—Lac des Canards, Cépée des Poissons and Batoche. Upon the reverse is the inscription in French, "Hommage à Gabriel Dumont par des Français de New York."

After the presentation a concert and a number of addresses were given. The Gardes Lafayettees and the Grenadiers Rochambeau, who number many Canadians in their ranks, were present.

Queries and Replies.

Q. Can you inform me whether rifle regiments are entitled to drums; also whether the Queen's Own Rifles have them, and if they are taken and used on parade in connection with their bugles?
RIFLEMAN.

A. Rifle corps are not, strictly speaking, entitled to drums, but only bugles. The Q.O.R. use six or eight drums in their bugle band whenever it appears in public, the drums being a great assistance in giving the time, which bugles alone could not do so well.

The following are chosen from the replies sent in in answer to Snap Cap's question in our last issue; from which flank should you begin to examine arms? We may say that none of our correspondents favor the right flank.

"35TH" says:—In reply to query in your issue of 4th inst., I have never seen it stated "by authority" at which flank the officer should commence to examine the barrels of the rifles, but I think it should be from the left, because, when the rear rank man comes to the order he is able to "resume his distance" without incommoding the man on his left, which he would do from the other flank.

"RIFLE" says:—Sec. II, Rifle Exercises, reads: "On the word 'examine' the rear rank will take a pace of ten inches to the right front; on the word 'arms' both ranks will come to the ready." The section concludes "the soldier when the officer passes the file nearest to him will close the breech by easing springs as directed in the third motion of the present, order arms, *resume his distance (if a rear rank man)* and stand at ease."

To enable the rear rank men to resume their places the officer must commence the examining of arms from the *left* flank for the following reason:—It enables each rear rank man, after his rifle has been examined, to step into his proper position without interfering with any other man, but if by mistake the officer commences at the right flank the right hand man of the rear rank will find it impossible to resume his place without coming in contact with the man on his left, thus inconveniencing them both. These reasons should be apparent to any one who has ever tried to see which is the proper way, and if they are not sufficiently clear then let "Snap Cap" or any other person try to inspect by commencing from the right flank, and he will have ocular demonstration as to which is correct.

Q. Can you? and if so, will you? kindly inform me by means of a notice in the GAZETTE where the regulations for the militia of Canada can be purchased, and at what price.

J. T. Cox, Sergt.-Major,
1st Jersey Militia,
The Arsenal, St. Peter's.

A. They are kept in stock only by the Militia Department, and can be procured only from them. The price is 25 cents (say 1s. 1d.) but the formalities to be gone through in purchasing a copy are very inconvenient. It is necessary to deposit the money in the Bank of Montreal to the credit of the Receiver-General, and to forward the deposit receipt to the Adjutant-General, Department of Militia and Defence, Ottawa, accompanied by a letter asking that a copy may be forwarded.

I may add for the information of the force that all the red books can be procured in the same way at a slight advance on the English prices.—ED.

Mess Room Yarns.

"That reminds me."

It was in the drill-square, Royal engineer barracks. A squad of recruits were at drill, amongst whom was an Irishman named Doherty, 6ft. 1½ in. in height. At that time the sergeant-major was Mr. G.—g, only 5ft. 4 in. On this day he was seen approaching the squad, looking sharply about for some fault. All squared up with the exception of Doherty, and the sergt.-major made straight for him, when the following dialogue ensued:—

Sergt.-major: "Heads up that man!" (Doherty raised his head slightly.) "Up higher, sir!" (The head was raised again.)

Then the sergt.-major, by standing on his toes, managed to reach Doherty's chin and poked it higher still, with the remark—

"That's better! Don't let me see your head down again."

By this time all were interested at seeing Doherty staring far away and above the sergt.-major's head, when just then a voice from above us, in a rich brogue said—

"Am I to be always like this, sergt.-major?"

Sergt.-major: "Yes, sir!"

Doherty: "Then I'll say good-bye to ye sergt.-major, for I'll niver see yez again."

The Target.

Brandon.—The third annual matches of the Brandon rifle association were held here on the 29th ult. The attendance was good, but the weather was not favorable. During the competition the large percentage of drop shots was very noticeable and may be attributed to the fact that Quebec ammunition was used, none other being available.

LADIES' MATCH.

200 yards, 7 shots, Snider rifle—position kneeling—prizes in kind.

Private McGregor.....	31	G. Cassels.....	24
J. Parker.....	30	T. Hutson.....	23
Lieut. E. Clementi-Smith.....	26	Sergeant Treherne.....	22

MAIDEN MATCH.

200 yards, 7 shots, Snider rifle—position, any, with head to target. Prizes in kind.

Sergeant Treherne.....	31	J. M. Sutherland.....	21
G. Cassels.....	23	J. T. Heady.....	19

PATRONS' MATCH.

500 yards, 7 shots, Snider rifles—position, any, with head to target. Prizes in kind.

Lieut. E. Clementi-Smith.....	23	Private McGregor.....	21
J. Patterson.....	23	G. Cassels.....	15
J. Parker.....	22		