

DISCIPLINE.

(By Colonel H. B. Hanna, late Commanding at Delhi.—From the Broad Arrow.)

"The young soldier passes two years in acquiring habits of attention, of order, of cleanliness, and of precision in all he does; and, above all things, in acquiring that respect for law and order which is the outcome of obedience to superiors, and of that practical training of the temper which obedience necessarily brings with it."
--LORD WOLSELEY.

Discipline is at its simplest in its relation to the private soldier. He has only to learn his duties and to obey the command of his superiors. But at discipline presses more or less heavily on a man according to the spirit in which he accepts it, I propose to lay down a few rules, attention to which will lighten the young soldier's life and prepare him for the rank of a non-commissioned officer, to which he will naturally aspire. As nothing so affects a man's career in the Army as commencing well, the young soldier should endeavour at once to get into a good set; and should only associate with those who are trying to get on, and who do their best to keep out of trouble. Strict attention to drills and to the instructor's explanations will soon get him dismissed from necessary but harassing parades, and thus he will find more time at his disposal, while his duties will be less arduous. Duty is often laborious because knowledge is wanting, and in every regiment there are always some men ready and able to impart knowledge to those who need it. There is no better way for a young man than to make friends with a steady old soldier, whose advice and example will help him in learning his duties and in keeping him out of boyish scrapes. The work will at first seem hard especially in the cavalry and artillery; but by steadily persevering, difficulties will quickly vanish. Punctuality in the performance of all duties and in attendance at parades is absolutely necessary. A soldier should never answer an officer or non-commissioned officer unless an answer is requisite. If warned for duty or fatigue work, although the roster may be wrong, he should obey first and, if necessary, afterwards respectfully represent the matter. He should not be too ready with complaints against his comrades, or too zealous in coming forward as a witness except in certain serious cases, such as an assault on an officer or a non-commissioned officer; for, in the Army as at school, the tale bearer is soon despised by his superiors and hated by his equals.

Cleanliness and neatness are very important characteristics of a smart soldier. Officers judge a good deal by a man's outside; it is therefore worth every soldier's while to spend a little money and a good deal of trouble in getting his clothes to fit, and in improving his appearance generally. But it is not sufficient to be personally clean and neat; a good soldier will keep everything belonging to him in the best possible order, and will try to get his comrades to join with him in having a nice tidy mess. There is nothing more civilizing than a well-appointed table; and there is more sound discipline in a clean table-cloth than most of us may think. Men will sit down to it properly dressed; the dinner will be more appetizing; and grumbling and bad language will be less often heard. The soldier who appreciates these things will take the management of the table into his own hands, and will give some attention to the way in which the rations are cooked. A little knowledge of cooking will always be useful to him, especially when on field service.

The soldier of gentle birth should be careful to give himself no airs, and should not take advantage of his private means to pay others to do his work for him. He should learn his duties as thoroughly, and fulfil them as punctually as his comrades of a lower class. They may at first be a little harder to him than to them, but he will soon be able to groom a horse, or to clean a saddle, as one to the manner born; and the better he performs such little offices, the quicker he will be in rising to higher things. That he should hope to do so is natural and right, and he may let

the regimental authorities know his ambition, but as regards the men, he will do wisely in keeping it to himself.

There is a way in which I think Government might do much to promote discipline among private soldiers. It should give the men a free meal of tea or coffee and bread and butter in the morning, before parades and duties begin. This may seem a little thing to do, but I firmly believe that excellent results would flow from it. Many crimes of violence and insubordination occur especially in the sultry Indian mornings, when the men are turned out, after a sleepless night, with unstrung nerves, unrefreshed in mind and body. At these times it takes very little to bring a man into collision with the non-commissioned officers. Even if a man escapes this danger, he will rush off to the canteen as soon as it is open for a drink, which, taken on an empty stomach, is but too apt to render him insolent and quarrelsome. A good meal before the men quit their barracks would save many from sickness, disgrace and punishment.

Want of space prevents my dwelling, as I should like, on certain changes which have recently been introduced into the Army in respect to the education of soldiers, which seem to me to be retrograde in character. I refer especially to the abolition of compulsory attendance at Army schools. The reason given for this change—viz., that every soldier now receives a compulsory education in childhood—seems to me quite insufficient. Most boys leave school at thirteen, and the amount of knowledge they can acquire by that age is small indeed; yet the more a man knows, the better are his chances in life, and the more useful he becomes to society. In most professions a man's work obliges him to keep up his school-learning, but in the Army this is not generally the case. So far as his ordinary duties are concerned, he may, and often does, forget the little he ever learnt.

So far from freeing the soldier from the duty of improving himself, I would go further and put pressure on him to attend not only the ordinary Army schools, but also technical schools. The advantage to the Army of possessing within its own ranks a number of skilled artisans is self-evident. The advantage to the men themselves, both during their time of service and in after-life, of having a trade in their fingers, is equally clear; and, so far from fearing that the prospect of having to attend such schools would frighten away our recruits, I believe that it would bring us men of higher character and intelligence, greatly to the gain of discipline in the Army. But whether technical education is to be made compulsory in the Army or not, the general education of our soldiers should be more cared for rather than less, since, in the weighty words of Bacon, "it is beyond all controversy, learning doth make the minds of men gentle, generous, amiable, and *pliant to government*, whereas ignorance makes them churlish, thwart, and *mutinous*."

The first number of volume II of the *Outing Weekly Tennis Record* for the season of 1891, was published on June 13th, and it should be read by every devotee of the delightful game. It is the official organ and bulletin of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association, and bears the indorsement of Chas. E. Stickney, secretary of that organization. The *Weekly Record* is tastefully gotten up, and, in addition to all official records up to date, contains portraits of noted players, a department of "Club Gossip," "Current Chat," "The Referee," and editorial paragraphs from the pens of prominent tennis players, while club matters, personals, etc., lend additional interest. The principal editorials refer to the new committee and amended rules of the U. S. N. L. T. A. The "English Letter," an article on "Mixed Doubles," and "Tennis in the South," are special features of a most attractive number.