

A GENERAL order was issued on the 5th, giving details of the subjects and books required for the annual examinations of candidates to enter the Royal Military College, and the marks apportioned to each subject both in the obligatory and voluntary examinations; in this there are no changes from previous years, excepting the date for holding the examinations, which is the 14th day of June next. We hope when that time arrives to see a full class qualify to enter that excellent institution.

IN last week's regular general orders we find that Captain Perley, who has been now for some years on the Headquarter's Staff, has been promoted to a majority, a mark of appreciation of his many valuable services which we should have liked to see him get some years ago. In the 69th Batt., the adjutant, Captain Marshall, succeeds to the majority vacated by the retirement of Major Harris. These are the only changes above the ranks of company officers. In all there are nine new appointments, all unqualified, seven losses from various causes, and five promotions; this leaves a net gain of two commissions.

### Personal.

Lord Napier, of Magdala, has been appointed constable of the Tower of London, over the late Sir R. J. Dacres

Lieut. W. H. Forrest has been obliged to resign his commission in the Royal Rifles in consequence of having accepted an appointment in the C.P.R. service in British Columbia. We met him at Port Hammond in August, when he looked as if he was lonesome for the sight of a rifle range. Mr. Forrest will be well remembered as one of the crack shots of the Eighth, and has a record that may almost be called wonderful for so young a man. In 1883, he won the Dominion Grand Aggregate, and was first man on the Wimbledon team of 1884. His absence is universally regretted.

Captain Douglas, R.N.R., representing the Nordenfelt Machine Gun Co., has arrived in town from England with the intention of submitting his company's system for the approval of the Canadian Government. He has already had interviews with His Excellency the Governor-General the Major-General commanding, the Minister of Militia, the Comptroller of Mounted Police, and other officers interested in the matter, and is awaiting the arrival of a couple of guns of different patterns with which he will be able to show the practical merits of the system.

Major Perley, whose promotion appears in the last *Gazette*, has a long and honorable record in the militia. Towards the close of 1861, at the time of the Trent difficulty, he joined at St. John, N.B., as a gunner, the battery commanded by Captain (now Lt.-Col.) B. L. Peters. Shortly afterward he associated himself with the late Major Boyd in raising the New Brunswick company of engineers, and on 5th July, 1862, was gazetted as 1st lieutenant of it. Having removed to Nova Scotia, he resigned his position in the engineer company, and on the 18th September, 1863, became a captain in the 11th regiment of the Halifax county militia. This position he held until 1866, when, in consequence of removal to England, he was obliged to resign. On returning to St. John, in 1870, Mr. Perley entered and passed through the military school conducted by the 78th Highlanders, obtaining a second-class certificate on the 16th August, 1870. He then rejoined the N. B. Engineers as 2nd Lieut. Was promoted lieutenant 22nd Oct., 1872, and captain July, 1874, serving in command until 5th January, 1880, when he removed to Ottawa as Chief Engineer, D.P.W. Soon afterwards he was appointed engineer officer at headquarters. Major Perley was president of the N.B. Provincial Rifle Association during 1876-7-8; has represented N.B. on the council of the D.R.A. since 1875, and has been a member of the Executive Committee, D.R.A. since 1879. Since 1880 he has been a representative of the 4th military district on the council of the Ontario Rifle Association, and has been president of the Ottawa Rifle Club for some years. He was also a member of the board appointed by the Department of Militia and Defence, in 1883 and 1885, to enquire into and report on the cartridges manufactured at the government factory at Quebec. Major Perley's success as a marksman is too well known to need extended notice, and his unflagging energy and unselfish interest in all that pertains to advancing rifle shooting in the Dominion are household words. On three occasions he obtained a place on the Wimbledon team, but could not go. In 1884 he won the Governor-General's third prize, and was offered the command of the team of that year for Wimbledon, but was obliged to decline the honor. We hope that for many years to come Major Perley may continue his active interest in our rifle associations and competitions.

### Obituary.

LIEUT.-COLONEL WILLIAM ARTHURS, retired list, died at his residence, Toronto, on the 5th instant, at the comparatively early age of 54. He was a native of Toronto and was closely identified with the city throughout his life. He was educated in Upper Canada College, and in 1862 entered business as a member of the firm of Thomas & Arthurs, afterwards Arthurs & Co., one of the largest dry goods concerns in Toronto. Col. Arthurs was eminently successful as a merchant, his energy and ability bringing him quickly to the front. Nevertheless he found time to take an active interest in militia matters, and in 1863, joined the Queen's Own Rifles. He held the rank of captain in the regiment when the Fenian raid occurred in 1866, and won distinction during that affair, his pluck at Ridgeway being conspicuous. On the 18th March, 1881, he retired from the active force, retaining rank as Lieutenant-Colonel, having attained that rank by brevet on the 24th March, 1876. He was connected with the construction of the Credit Valley railway, and was a member of its Board of Directors. For two years he occupied the position of President of St. Andrew's Society. An active man always, he was interested in all kinds of athletic sports. For many years he was a member of the Ontario Lacrosse Club, and in the Athletic Club rooms, under the management of the late Col. Goodwin, he acquired considerable skill in the use of the foil, and became an athlete of no mean merit. To his interest in lacrosse was due, in a large measure, the rapid progress and wide popularity of the national game.

The funeral took place on Friday afternoon from his residence, 186 Richmond street west. The strong personal popularity of the dead man was shown by the immense number that turned out to pay their last respects to the memory of one whose whole life has been an exemplification of honest worth. From corner to corner both sides of the street were thronged with the best people of Toronto. A detachment of the Queen's Own Rifles, three companies, 150 strong, and the band, turned out in command of Col. Miller. Other officers present were Major Allen, Major Hamilton, Captains Thompson, Mason, Mutton and Murray. A number of ex-members, distinguished by the green badge and silver-crested maple leaf above it, also attended. Among them were Col. Otter, Major Dixon, Major Lee, Major Harris, Col. Gilmore, Captain Douglas, Capt. Boyd, Capt. Vandersmissen, Capt. G. M. Adam and Lieut. Fahey. The Grenadiers were represented by Capt. Manley and other officers not in uniform. The Governor-General's Body Guard also turned out. Col. G. T. Denison was present, though not in uniform. The military and band were simply present as an escort. There could not be a military funeral in consequence of the deceased not being on the active list at the time of his death. The short funeral service of the English Church was read by Canon Baldwin, and was followed by a short prayer by Rev. Dr. Poits. The body lay in a handsome casket, which was covered with floral offerings sent by his children, the members of the Q.O.R., the ex-members, and many other friends of the deceased. The pall-bearers were Col. Gilmore, Dr. Thorburn, W. Thomas, Alex. McNab, James Wright, John Ross, of St. Catherines, Kenneth Miller and Thomas McGaw. The funeral was one of the largest and most imposing that Toronto has seen in years, and was a fitting tribute to the memory of one who was respected and beloved by all who knew him.

### Orthoptics.

MESSRS CURTIS & SON write to the *Rifle* from London as follows:

*Editor of the Rifle:—*

We enclose a cutting taken from the *Volunteer Service Gazette*, dated Nov. 27th, 1886, purporting to be an extract from your paper, from which it appears that the use of Orthoptics is very little known amongst the shooting-men in the United States.

They are the invention of one Mr. J. J. Curtis, an old rifle-shot in the 1st Surrey rifle volunteers, of some twenty-six years' standing, who, about ten years since, found his eyesight failing a little, being then about forty-nine, causing a slight blur or mistiness to appear on the back sight of the rifle when firing, which no known optical instrument could remove without altering the appearance of the targets. After much research and experiment he invented the orthoptic, and found that they restored his sight to its primitive state, and showed out both sights and target perfectly clear and distinct; and at the present time, being in his sixtieth year, though he cannot read letters half an inch high without spectacles, can, when shooting with an orthoptic, see the sights of the rifle and the target as well as he could thirty years ago. In fact they suit any age, and either long or short sighted persons.

They have no focus like a glass lens (which has, and can be only used for a certain specified distance, according to the convexity or con-