

an adversary ; and to give a cut or thrust with proper force and precision. The middle knuckles are to be in the direction of the edge in all cuts and guards ; and the grip of the handle should be held by the thumb and fingers around it.

*Draw Swords*—Bring the right hand smartly across the body, over the bridle arm, to the sword-knot, placing it upon the wrist, and giving the hand a couple of turns inwards, in order to make it fast ; and at the same time seize the hilt, turning it to the rear, and raise the hand the height of the elbow, the arm being close to the body. By a second motion draw the sword from the scabbard with an extended arm, the edge being to the rear, and sink the hand till the hilt is under the chin, the blade perpendicular, the edge to the left, and the elbow close to the body, which forms the position of “*Recover Swords*.” Then by a third motion bring the hilt down in a line with the bridle hand, the elbow near the body, the blade perpendicular, the wrist slightly rounded, so as to turn the edge rather inwards, which brings it to the position of “*Carry Swords*.”

*Slope Swords*—Loosen the grasp of the handle, and let the back of the sword fall lightly on the shoulder ; the arm remaining in the previous position, but the wrist a little bent upwards.

*Carry Swords*—By a motion of the wrist and fingers, resume the grasp of the handle, so as to bring the blade upright, as before.

*Return Swords*—Carry the hilt to the hollow of the left shoulder, the blade kept perpendicular, and the back of the hand to the front ; then by a sharp turn of the wrist, drop the point into the scabbard, turning the edge to the rear, until the hand and elbow are in a line with each other square across the body. Then let the sword fall smoothly from the hand, at the same time loosening the sword-knot from the wrist. By a last motion from the fugleman the hand is smartly withdrawn.

As it is frequently difficult in returning swords to insert the point immediately, this will sooner be effected by resting the blade upon the bridle arm ; and great care should be taken that the sword is not returned with force, but that the edge of the blade may be preserved, by letting it fall gradually with the back alone bearing upon the scabbard. In these motions the left hand is to be raised to the position of the bridle hand.

*Prepare to perform Sword Exercise*—Being at the position of “*Attention*” with sloped swords, turn the body and feet