

tain who, having been assiduous during the year, keeping an eye upon his men, and holding evening drills as often as possible, as many do, brings to camp a company, including perhaps many recruits, yet having a backbone of fairly drilled men, which makes all the difference as regards its usefulness and efficiency. To meet this difficulty it is suggested that the payment of the allowance for drill instruction should be contingent upon the company being up to a certain standard of efficiency.

The period of drill, nominally twelve days—really only nine, is too short. It is better than nothing, which is all that can be said, and it is surprising how much is done in the time; but just as the men have got well used to camp life, and have got over the least interesting part of their instruction, they are sent away.

This is also a question of money, but the increased amount required would double the value of what is now spent. Even an additional five days would be of immense service, and might be made the most popular as well as instructive portion of the drill.

While on this subject I may add that the rations for the men are barely sufficient, and the deficiency, into the details of which I need not here enter, could best be supplied by a small money allowance, paid through the captains of companies, to be expended by the men themselves, in some additions to their messing, which would be very grateful, and make the annual camps much more popular. A very small sum would suffice.

A second class of deficiencies comes under the head of organization. The force remains in exactly the same form in which it was left by Col. Robertson Ross. He found it a number of isolated and independent companies. He left it a number of isolated and independent battalions; and so it has remained ever since. Why should not the organization be extended to Bri-

gades, if not to Divisions, with their proper and complete staff, such as would be required on active service, and such as has to be improvised at every camp of instruction? It would cost no more than at present, and would be found of great service, if the force were ever called out. Another and serious defect in the working of our system is, that the schools of instruction, especially those for the infantry, do not answer the purpose for which they were instituted to anything like the extent which they should, considering the charge which they are upon the country, and the requirements of the force. The tendency of the militia department is to regard them as a military force in themselves, distinct from the regular militia, with special privileges and distinctions, instead of treating them simply as that for which they were intended—schools for the instruction of officers and non. com. officers of the active militia. As at present conducted they are growing less and less adequate for this purpose, while the expense attending them is constantly increasing. They are a heavy charge upon the sum voted for the militia, while not of corresponding advantage. For the sum they cost they ought to be able to give all the instruction that is needed; but in this they largely fail. Their usefulness is now limited to the amount of barrack accommodation which they can give to attached officers and men, while they ought to be able to receive and instruct all those that apply for and are entitled to instruction. They must open their doors very much wider, or some other method of instruction must be found, so as to meet at less cost the necessities of the service. And also the men of these permanent *corps*, as they are now called, must be more available for the purpose of instruction than they have been hitherto. Larger attendance at instruction parades; more men and less rope; more men on parade and fewer on fatigue and garrison