

intended to make the service a full military one and it should be well worth hearing.

There was a good attendance at the fortnightly socials of the Scots in the drill shed last Saturday. "D" Company intend to have a monthly social meeting of the men, so as to keep the men from losing sight of each other during the winter months.

Nothing yet has been done with regard to the reception to Lieut.-Cols. Cole and Starke. It is expected, however, that when Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., returns to camp a meeting of the officers commanding will be called to make arrangements.

The bands of the various city corps have offered their services for the Montreal General Hospital fair during the week of October 5.

The management of the Queen's Theatre paid a nice compliment to those members of the Shoeburyness team who have just returned and are now in town, by inviting them to be present at the performance on Friday night.

The 2nd R.C.A. arrived back from Quebec on Thursday morning, where they put in their annual practice. The detachment consisted of 84 men, and were under the command of Capt. Barton. The other officers present were Capts. Hibbard, Crowley and England, besides Sergt.-Major Fellows. The results will not be known for a few days yet.

One of the most pleasant nights ever spent by the members of the 78th Highlanders in Montreal took place in the Royal Scots' armory on Friday night. Why the meeting came about was the fact that on the 25th September, 1858, Lucknow was relieved. There were several of the veterans of that stirring time present on Friday night, besides a number of late members of the Duke of Albany's Own, who, although they did not take part in the Mutiny, still carry with them the old stirring stories of the regiment. The days of yore were recalled with a vim that sent a glow of pride through the younger soldiers present. The chair was occupied by Mr. Wm. Farquharson, while Mr. R. G. Foster acted as vice-chairman. There were twenty-five late members of the 78th present, besides a number of guests, among whom were: Major Lydon, Capt. Ibbotson, Sergt.-Major Currie, Col.-Sergts. Bethune and Munn, Staff-Sergt. Kennedy, Mr. Lovelace, D. W. Ayton and Sergt.-Major Fellows. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed, after which "The Memory of the Relief of Lucknow, Sept. 25, 1858." was proposed by the chairman, and Mr. Foster appropriately sung "Jessie Brown." George Spriggs, who had seen 38 years of service and carried three medals, said that he wished he had to go through the same days as he did when with the 78th. He saw his first fire when only 13 years of age. A paper on "Burns as a Military Man" was read by Col.-Sergt. Munn. Capt. Ibbotson said he had much pleasure at being present at the celebration of the Relief of Lucknow, and seeing so many of the old 78th. He said that a reserve association of the Royal Scots should be formed, when they could wear their old uniforms on field days, church parades, etc. Major Lydon, in replying to the toast of "Our Guests," said that the 78th Regiment were practically the foundation of the Royal Scots. Song and story made up a pleasant evening.

#### WITH THE ARMY.

LONDON, Eng., Sept. 15.—Many complaints are being heard over the extra expense that the autumn manœuvres entail upon the non-coms. and men who have to put up with the extra wear and tear to which their clothing is subjected. It is stated by not a few who are in a position to know that 15 shillings per man is within the mark of damage done. To effect a real and permanent remedy for this, Col. Welby's proposal to have a practical working dress, so that when doing drill of all kinds it could be used, while

the smart uniform be used only when doing duty as guard, or on show parades when foreign potentates visit this country, is considered by many to be a good one.

That something is wrong with the Army Medical Staff is a matter that is giving the authorities no end of trouble. Questions are cropping up every now and again in the House with regard to this important branch of the service. The department is greatly under strength, and in the event of a call to arms this deficiency would place the authorities in a very serious dilemma. New rules were issued a short time ago with regard to the examination, but, according to the results just published, only 13 candidates have passed for 25 vacancies. It is stated that the actual vacancies at present are not 25, but about 40. It will thus be seen that only half of the candidates came up to the required standard of efficiency for the 25 vacancies. This of itself is a sufficient proof that the medical service is unpopular.

Brevet-Col. H. B. Kingscote, half-pay, has been selected for the appointment of colonel on the staff commanding Royal Artillery, Canada, vice Col. H. de S. Isaacson, retired.

The Canadian Government have invited the Imperial Government to nominate a first-class officer for the position of commandant of the Royal Military College at Kingston, in succession to Major-General Cameron, resigned.

The War Office has given instructions that specimens of the cartridges issued for the Martini-Henry rifle at the Bisley meeting, about which complaint had been made as to their defective qualities, be sent to Woolwich for special examination.

A matter that will be enquired into is that the best of the last dozen candidates who were admitted into the cavalry were 120 points behind the last infantry candidates at the recent examination. This either proves that inferior men are admitted into the cavalry or that the examinations are not conducted in a way to test their qualifications.

That the use of the bicycle in the army is making rapid strides goes without saying. Only a short time ago the iron steed was not looked upon by the authorities with any great favor. Now matters are changed, and at the army manœuvres, which will be held near Aldershot, infantry soldiers who have wheels will be employed as orderlies, instead of cavalry soldiers, and will be allowed for tear and wear one penny per mile. This arrangement will be met with favor all along the line, and does away with the enormous waste consequent on the cavalry having to perform this duty.

The Earl of Waldegrave, president of the National Rifle Association, has been appointed captain of the Yeomen of the Guard. He is a member of the London Rifle Brigade, and has done much for volunteering and shooting.

Much dissatisfaction is being expressed with regard to the bayonet fitted to the Lee-Metford rifle. Practical men have decided against it. It is flat, heavy and unsightly, and experts claim that it should be replaced by a slightly longer and triangular weapon without any increase in the weight. The present disproportion between the rifle and the bayonet has a clumsy effect both in the hand and to the eye.

The use of cycle corps is looked upon with great favor from the Commander-in-Chief downwards. Those who took part in the recent Ashantee expedition are greatly pleased with the possibility of this mode of quick traveling. In France, too, the advance in this direction is watched with keen interest. A London correspondent gives a graphic description of the work of these cycle companies in France at the French autumn manœuvres. Silent drill takes place during the day and night, when the men, three deep, ride a folding bicycle, which can be carried on the back. It is expected that in the future cycle corps will prove of great benefit for the support of cavalry. The French military authorities intend to use motor cars with rubber tires to follow the flying squadron at a distance with ammunition.