

been tastefully arranged. Mrs. Seymour's catering seemed to suit the appetite of all present. Mrs. Prenter and Williams had charge of the tables.

Letters of regret were received from the following named: Major-General Herbert and wife; Adjutant-General Powell and the Governor-General's Foot Guards, Ottawa, 48th Highlanders, Queen's Own Rifles and Toronto Field Battery, Toronto; Montreal Field Battery, 5th Royal Scots, 6th Fusiliers, Montreal; Royal Canadian Artillery, Captain and Mrs. Rivers, Quebec; Surgeon-Major Neilson and wife, Kingston. Among those present who are connected with the Battery or the Fourteenth Battalion were: Colonel W. H. Cotton, D.A.G., Major Drury, Captain Gaudet, V. S. Massie, Colonel H. R. Smith, Major J. S. Skinner, Major Galloway, Lieutenants C. M. Strange and W. S. Skinner. The ball was altogether one of the most successful ever given by the Sergeants. Everything passed off very well. Mrs. Stroud, the patroness, was kept very busy, but everything was looked after in her usual charming manner. The floor was in splendid condition and the mazy waltz and gliding ripple was enjoyed by all. Fred. Bristow's sonorous voice seemed to be "above par."

NEWS FROM THE SERVICE PAPERS.

An amusing story is told in the Indian papers by a gentleman who calls public attention to the manner in which appointments to the Indian Staff Corps are sometimes made. "A lady friend of mine who once tried to exercise her blandishments on the then Military Secretary at the India Office on behalf of her son, was," he writes, "greatly incensed by being told by this functionary that she had no chance of success as the Queen's India Cadetships were strictly reserved for the incapable sons of distinguished officers!" The correspondent who denounces the present system, and who possibly is a disappointed parent, contends that half of the available cadetships should be offered to youngsters who have stood the test of examination. "Is it," he asks, "fair to the Indian Staff Corps, or to the competitors at the Sandhurst examination, that 18-25ths (nearly three-fourths) of the total cadetships available should be given to young men who have not sufficient ability, or who have not been sufficiently educated, to qualify by open competition?" This complaint would seem to us to be reasonable.

The distinction of having the greatest number of tall men in one company belongs to the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards. The "A" or right flank company of that battalion has over ninety men on its roll, and their average height is six feet two and a quarter inches. There are twelve men in the company over six feet four inches, and one stands slightly over six feet seven inches. No individual member is less than six feet in height.

Colonel Shakerly says in the Volunteer Service Record: The shooting "pot-hunter" should certainly be discouraged, because

he simply prevents young hands from taking up shooting; but a system of handicapping will soon put that matter right. Except in the case of an officer, I do not think his staying on does much harm. Perhaps sometimes an officer blocks promotion in this way, but unless a battalion is altogether in one town all promotions are very irregular. The latest form of pot-hunter is both commissioned and non-commissioned ranks, the "decoration hunter," will delay promotion far more, and this is a real grievance. In the shooting pot-hunter one has at least a good shot, but the man who stays on for a decoration is very often the last man who should get it, and he merely stays on for that purpose—just being efficient and nothing more. Honorary rank is another mild form of pot-hunting, which is most injurious, filling a regiment with so-called majors till "Tommy" can't tell a real major when he sees him. All these empty rewards can only tend to cheapen the Service, and keep on played-out men who are past their work.

Cavalry soldiers often sleep in the saddle after a fatiguing march, and, although it would seem impossible to march on foot and sleep at the same time, there are authentic instances of the performance of such a feat. Artillery men in the battle have been known to sleep under their own guns, which were constantly firing.

Letters received from Callao tell of some interesting target matches between H.M.S. Hyacinth and the United States cruiser Yorktown with 6-inch guns, and between teams from these two vessels with rifles. In the rifle match the British team won by 24 points. The Englishmen used Martini-Henry rifles and the Americans used Springfields. The teams were composed principally of officers. The distances in the 6-inch gun match were 1,100 and 1,200 yards, the target being 20 feet in height, 5 submerged and 15 feet above water. Of twelve shots fired the Yorktown placed eight on the centre vertical line of the target, two directly at the juxtaposition of the vertical and horizontal diameters. The match was won by the Yorktown by 15 points.

For the third time within a few years the Garrison Artillery is to be re-organised, the principal change being the breaking up of the unwieldy double companies created in 1891. By this arrangement many of the present armament majors will revert to company duty, so as to prevent an increase in the number of the rank. At the last re-organisation, some three or four years ago, it was stated that other changes would be made, and it is presumed that to a certain extent the present system has been found wanting. What will be the results of the new venture remains to be seen, but there can be no doubt that continual chopping and changing is a great hindrance to efficiency.

From the annual returns of British Volunteer corps for last year, now being made up at the War Office, it has been ascertained that the strongest corps in the

Service is the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Welsh Regiment at Cardiff, whose officers and men number 2,166, of whom 2,113 are efficient, and 53 non-efficient. Hitherto the lead has been taken by the Queen's Edinburgh Rifle Brigade, but that corps now falls into second place with 1,997 enrolled and 1,847 efficient. The Cardiff corps is only 108 short of its establishment of 2,274 officers and men; and its present total of efficient is 300 greater than in 1892.

The Council of the National Rifle Association have under consideration the institution of a new prize competition at Bisley this year for the regulars, to be termed "The Army and Navy Competition." The conditions of firing, etc., will be similar to those under which the Queen's prize is shot for by the volunteers, and there will be one or two prizes of £100, decreasing according to scores. A meeting of the Council of the Association will be held on Thursday to consider the final arrangements, when Major E. M. S. Crabb, district inspector of musketry at Aldershot, will attend to convey to the Council the views of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief on the subject.

The War-office has sanctioned a sum of £6,000 to be expended in the carrying out of the summer manoeuvres at Aldershot this year, which will take place under the supervision of the general commanding, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. The operations will be principally in the nature of "flying columns," one of these leaving camp in August, and another in September. Each column will consist of eight battalions of other arms of the service, and will be formed into two brigades, which will be opposed to each other, occasionally meeting with day and night attacks from the troops left in Aldershot. Each column will be out for a night, the manoeuvring being in the vicinity of Aldershot, and lasting about six weeks. The troops in camp will, for the manoeuvres, be augmented by six or eight infantry battalions.

Major-General G. J. Smart, R.A., has been ordered home from Gibraltar to take over the command of the Woolwich District, in the place of Major-General Nicholls, who resigns.

At Vancouver a rifle match took place between the marines of the flagship, H.M.S. Royal Arthur, and the Vancouver Club, the former winning by one point. The feature of the match was the grand shooting of Lieutenant Collard, R.M.L.I., who made 95 out of a possible 105.

A RESOLUTION FROM AN ENGINEER'S POINT OF VIEW.

A leading article in Engineering is devoted to the construction and recent behaviour of the battleship Resolution. Having briefly given the principal elements of design of this vessel, the writer proceeds to consider the special circumstances that have lately brought her so prominently before the public. He says: "Probably there never was a design got out by the Admiralty upon which