

" examination after joining the College, is above the average of the Cadets of previous batches. This is gratifying, as tending to show that the educational establishments of the country are preparing their pupils for admission to the Royal Military College.

*" Requirements to complete the specified course of Education.—Theoretical Subjects.*

" By regulation approved in Council, the whole of the classes should have received instruction in *freehand drawing and painting* since January, 1878, and the 4th class in *civil engineering, chemistry, electricity, and geology* since September, 1878, but in default of instructors for these subjects, it has not been practicable to carry out the prescribed course. I beg most strongly to urge that provision may be made, by appointment of professors for these branches, for commencing those subjects next term, viz., February, 1878.

" The want of instruction in freehand drawing especially has already injuriously affected both the progress of the cadets and the general curriculum of study.

" The general course of education is so arranged that proficiency attained in some one subject may, at the proper time and point, prepare for and assist in the study of some other subject; indeed a certain amount of knowledge in one branch is not unfrequently *indispensable* for the prosecution of another. I may add that the cadets themselves are fully alive to this fact, and are keenly anxious to possess the facilities for learning subjects which they are conscious that they are now sufficiently advanced in education to undertake with profit and the facilities for which they, with justice, fully expected to be accorded to them.

" The importance, both to the country and to the individual, that the subjects alluded to should be studied as originally intended, and that they should be taught by highly qualified and thoroughly capable men, cannot be questioned.

" The number of cadets is now such that it is not possible for one professor to pretend to give, without an assistant, adequate and personal instruction in any of the branches of instruction, still less for him to attempt to teach more than one subject.

" The professors feel and represent to me that, in spite of their strenuous efforts, the inability to give sufficient attention to each cadet individually is becoming a very serious evil, and I entirely endorse their opinion. I respectfully submit that this matter may receive early consideration and remedy, as being one which the interests of the country and cadets are equally concerned.

*" Instruction during year.— Practical Subjects.*

" The cadets of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th terms have been practised in infantry drills, gymnastics, swimming, &c.; and those of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th terms in garrison and field artillery drills and exercises in addition.

" The cadets have gone through a systematic course of rifle (Martini-Henry) instruction with target practice, and also of artillery target practice with common and shrapnel from 9-pounder M.L.R. gun.

" The average obtained by the cadets in rifle practice was extremely good, and the artillery practice was fully equal to the average of perfectly trained gunners.

" A regular guard of cadets (those in their first term excepted) has been mounted twice a week, and the duty has been performed steadily and satisfactorily.

" The service of a sergeant instructor in gymnastics, swordsmanship, fencing, &c., has proved of substantial advantage, and the cadets now enjoy every facility for the cultivation of their physical powers and of acquiring readiness of hand and eye, under skilled supervision, and therefore without danger of accident.

" A full battery of four 6-pounder smooth-bore field guns has been received. These guns, on account of their comparatively light weight, are better fitted than the 9-pounder M.L.R. guns for the cadets to practise field movements with hand drag ropes in place of horse draught.

" These guns are used only for field manœuvres, but not for other drills or target practice.