

COMPLIMENTS FROM OUR READERS.

COMPLIMENTS are in season at this time of year, and the fact that our holiday mail brought us a very liberal share of them was a source of no little gratification. Happily, such missives are addressed to us all the year round, but they are none the less welcome because of their frequency; and prove constant incentives to greater effort to deserve the compliments so generously paid. The following constitute a valuable supplement to the testimonials printed from time to time in the past:—

I trust your paper is still meeting with the support it merits.—*Major J. D. Irving, Charlottetown.*

Although not now actively connected with the force I take great interest in all that concerns it, and always read the GAZETTE with pleasure and much interest.—*Lt.-Col. R. Gardner, Montreal.*

I look upon subscription as a pleasant duty that the whole force should be pleased to perform.—*W. W. White, Arthur, Ont.*

I value the GAZETTE for its excellent editorial comment on many military matters, and above all, for the common sense displayed in its general get up.—*Capt. Philip Reade, Fort Meade, South Dakota, U.S.A.*

Your valuable paper.—*E. G. Kenny, Halifax.*

I should feel lost without the GAZETTE, and every officer connected with the force should be a subscriber.—*Major J. C. Guillot, Windsor, Ont.*

I enjoy your valuable paper a great deal, and could hardly do without it.—*Capt. J. B. McPhee, Barrie, Ont.*

Let me congratulate you on the excellence of your publication. No one who desires to keep informed as to the military affairs of Canada should be without it.—*Major J. A. Black, Amherst, N.S.*

I consider your paper should be supported by every officer in the force.—*Major W. Loveys, Embro, Ont.*

Your paper is always welcome.—*Capt. C. Hoffman Smith, Sudbury, Ont.*

The GAZETTE is doing a good work in the interest of the volunteer force.—*Lt.-Col. S. S. Lazier, Belleville, Ont.*

I am glad to see such evident signs of prosperity in your paper. May your shadow never grow less.—*C. N. Mitchell, Winnipeg, Man.*

I have been glad to recommend the GAZETTE to a number of my friends here.—*Lt.-Col. J. Z. Roger, Barrie, Onts.*

I wish you increased success for the coming year.—*F. P. Carvell, Charlottetown, P.E.I.*

Your paper is always welcome.—*Major R. L. Nelles, Toronto.*

I remit my subscription with pleasure, and trust you will receive the support you deserve financially.—*Capt. E. F. Wurtele, Quebec.*

We would feel lost without your bright little paper.—*A. M. Burns, Treasurer Q.O.R. Sergeants' Mess, Toronto.*

I think yours is THE paper for general news of the Militia.—*W. Swaine, Kingston, Ont.*

I take great pleasure in discussing the GAZETTE week by week as it comes to hand, and would miss the paper very much should anything occur to close its publication. I am so often reminded of friends I have in the various provinces in the Militia through its columns, and of their doings, that for this alone I hold the paper in great favour.—*Capt. F. B. Kess, Hamilton, Ont.*

The GAZETTE is always welcomed. The enterprise of the publisher deserves hearty support.—*Lt.-Col. C. S. Jones, Brantford, Ont.*

We like to get the MILITIA GAZETTE, and look for it every week.—*W. J. Homer, Treasurer Sergeants' Mess, Hamilton Field Battery.*

A TRIFLE HARD.

Sergeant (at the morning parade): "Recruit Meyer, the next time you appear to me in my dream in such a disagreeable way as you did last night, I'll give you three days in the lockup!"—*Fliegende Blätter.*

DRILL AND DISCIPLINE.

LECTURE BY LT.-COL. W. E. O'BRIEN, M.P., CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE, 15TH DECEMBER.

(Continued from page 7.)

I said at the outset that the principles of discipline are unchangeable. That is true, but, at the same time, the methods of their application may, and will, differ, according to the conditions of the force, to the character of the men who compose it, and the motive power which has called it into being and impels it into action. This last consideration is the most important and will be first taken into account. To cause men to leave their homes, and peaceful avocations, and to encounter the perils and hardships of warfare, there must exist somewhere a powerful impulse. I do not speak of the savage whose trade is war, and who derives from the plunder of his victims his principal means of subsistence, but of the man who has a settled habitation, who cultivates the soil, and who has made some progress in the arts of civilization—a progress which his engaging in warfare necessarily interrupts, and possibly destroys. Such a man, I say, will not allow that progress to be interrupted, and the comforts which he is beginning to enjoy to be exchanged for danger and suffering, except under the pressure of some powerful impulse. And as that impulse affects his mental and moral nature, so upon it will depend the rules of discipline, and the method of their application. The impulse of which I speak may come from some one source, or from a combination of sources, but one will always predominate. And first among the many sources from which wars have arisen, requiring forces to be raised, and impelled into action, we find the migration of races caused by a population becoming in excess of the means of subsistence afforded by the land of its original location. The emigrants in search of fresh homes naturally turned their steps towards lands where the greatest abundance was to be found, and thus coming in contact with other nations war ensued. Such, for instance, were the migrations of the Gauls and kindred tribes whose incursions gave rise to endless conflicts, and spread terror and confusion over all the southern part of Europe. Pride of race and lust of conquest, acting upon nations as well as individuals, has been the cause of war at all times and among all peoples. Xerxes, not content with being the ruler of all Attica, was urged by this lust for power, to enrol an army of two millions of his subjects and tributaries for the conquest of Greece, a petty state whose whole territory and population was not equal to that of one of smallest provinces. Alexander, having extended his conquests from the Ægean Sea to the Indus, wept because there were no more worlds to conquer. The Roman legionaries had no rest till all of the then civilized world was brought under the sway of the Imperial power. And, in later times, we need only refer to the insatiable ambition of Napoleon Bonaparte to show how one man as full of ability as void of regard for justice or humanity, was able, by skilfully playing upon the worst of human passions, to fill all Europe with armed men bent upon mutual destruction, yet, to a great extent, ignorant of any cause why they should thus be arrayed against each other. A nobler spirit—that of the love of adventure, combined often with commercial enterprise, has led men and nations into affairs which could only result in warfare, even where no intention to engage in it was part of the original design. Of this our own continent, and the history of the British race, afford notable examples. And, strangest of all, religious zeal has been the cause of some of the bloodiest strifes that history records, and the soldiers of the cross as well as of the crescent, have vied with each other in the fierceness with which each could promulgate the tenets of their creed. Then, when there is aggression on one part, there must be resistance on the other, and two opposite motives combine