

three great tasks to perform, which she has now practically completed. Her native army, to-day as loyal as it is efficient, has been reorganised. The steady encroachments of Russia on the frontiers of Afghanistan next forced the Indian Government, after a short period of vacillation, to adopt a new policy, and it became incumbent to protect the North-Western frontier against the possibility of invasion. To meet this necessity there sprang up the system of Indian defence inaugurated by Sir Donald Stewart, which has been completed by Lord Roberts. The line of forts and fortified posts, the military and strategic railways, the whole elaborate scheme for repelling attack guarding the famous North-Western border, practically renders our Indian Empire impregnable in this quarter. This is the opinion of our military experts. Only a great European army, dragging the heaviest of modern artillery behind it, would dare to approach one of these formidable strongholds. The third great work carried out under the military administration of the retiring Commander-in-Chief has been the construction of fortified posts throughout Bengal and Madras as places of refuge for the European population in case of a native rising. Had these strong places existed in 1857 the Sepoy revolt would in all probability have been quelled in a few weeks, and the annals of India spared the atrocious massacre our troops so fiercely avenged thirty-five years ago. Sir George White succeeds one of the greatest military organisers, as well as one of the ablest soldiers, that have ever served his country in the East.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The last of the winter series of the Montreal Garrison Artillery lectures took place on the evening of 13th April, at the brigade armory, before a large audience. The lecture was on the subject of minor dressings and ambulance drill, and was delivered by Assistant-Surgeon J. M. Elder, M.D. It was in many ways the most interesting of the course. The lecture was illustrated from time to time, by showing the appliances and how to put them on. The armory sergeant acted as the wounded man for the occasion. In opening, Dr. Elder said:—"To military men this lecture may seem out of place in a course of the Garrison Artillery, for I understand that according to the regular orders, we are not entitled to an ambulance corps. Now, while this may be wisdom for the regular corps of Garrison Artillery who are definitely assigned to the defence of some fortified post, and who are fighting as it were in barracks, the history of volunteer brigades in general, and, I may say, of this brigade in particular, is that they are much more liable to be called upon to do infantry work, especially in a new country like this, where we have plenty of open places and comparatively few fortified ones to defend. While I feel confident that if we were put into any fortified place and told to man the guns and defend it, that the "old brigade" would never lower the flag ingloriously; still, I am anxious, too, that the brigade should keep up its proud record as an infantry regiment, and should we ever again have to take the field, in that case I trust practical demonstration in the use of minor dressings and ambulance drill will enable us to fill our place with comfort as well as credit."

The lecturer then divided his lecture into two parts. First, on minor dressings. He said:—"To consider this intelligently we must take into account the nature of the wounds, which we may divide into three classes. The first is bruises and contusions, which may be treated by very hot or very cold water, with a bandage in the early stage. In action no simple bruise, unless it incapacitates the man from fighting, is to be noticed. There is doubtless a certain risk in going on, but war is risky at the best, and so long as a man can fill his place at the front he has no business with the surgeon in the rear. As soon as the action is over, if the bruise is still there, consult the surgeon. For dressing use arnica or witch hazel, a lead and opium lotion, but the last not on the face. The second class is fracture and dislocations. On the field both must be treated alike. Don't pull a seeming dislocation with a view of reduction, for you may be converting a simple fracture into a compound fracture, a thing particularly to be avoided in military surgery, as good surgeons often cannot tell at once one from the other. Treat both as though fractures. The general rule to be followed is:—Render immovable the injured limb." Dr. Elder then

described how to make splints and how to apply them, also what to do in case of hemorrhage. This concluded the first part of the lecture, the second being on ambulance drill and how to construct a stretcher on the field from two rifles and an army overcoat. At the conclusion of the lecture Lieut-Col. Cole moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was heartily given.—*Gazette*.

THE NEW RIFLE FOR CANADA.

It is said that it is the intention of the Militia Department to convert the Martini rifles, which it is proposed to call in at an early date, into the "Martini-Metford." That is, that the Metford barrel will be placed on the Martini stock and action. This new barrel is the same as that with which, in combination with the Lee action and magazine, some of the English regulars are armed. Some cavalry corps in England have also had their carbines changed into Martini-Metfords. A Lee Metford rifle was tested at a D.R.A. meeting on the Rideau range two years ago.

The barrel of the new gun is about the same length as the Martini but it is in the bore that the great contrast is seen. In lieu of the 45 calibre of the Martini, the Metford will just admit the size of an ordinary lead pencil. The grooving makes a complete turn for every four inches, and the cartridge is three inches in length, the bullet being cased in nickel, thus making it so hard that at 500 yards it has a penetrating power of 28 inches of pine. Its range is considerably over 4,000 yards the Lee-Metford being sighted for 3,500 yards. The very small size of bullet, its enormous twist and great muzzle velocity, all combine to afford a very low trajectory, from four to six hundred yards requiring but a slight increase of elevation. The allowance for windage is also necessarily very much lessened. The bayonets which are fitted to this new barrel are about fourteen inches in length, dagger shaped and sharp on both edges.

The fortification of King George's Sound, on the southern coast of Western Australia, which has been conducted at the expense of the Australian Colonies and the Imperial Government, is now complete. A garrison of colonial troops, under the command of an officer selected in England, will take charge of the defences.

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Even in the privacy of his own room the West Point cadet is required to conduct himself with all the dignity necessary for a court reception, and should the inspecting officer detect any slight flaw in his dress, attitude or deportment, an official report of the matter is made at once.

When a report is made an explanation is required of the cadet. In order to show to what extent this is sometimes carried we give verbatim the following:

West Point, N.Y., February 21, 1890. --Report: Feet on the table at inspection, 3 p.m. Explanation: I would respectfully state that the report is correct. It was necessary that I should have my feet on the table, as my room-mate was present and had his feet on the floor. I live with Cadet Grimes.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Anderson,

Cadet Private, Co. A, First Class.

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It is proposed that the troops selected to take part in the great army manoeuvres in September in the neighbourhood of Swindon shall all be concentrated at Aldershot by the middle of August. The ten battalions now at Aldershot are to form the nucleus of the infantry, and ten more battalions will be added, three being battalions of the Foot Guards, and the remainder being brought from Portsmouth and other places. Seven cavalry regiments will be employed: the 1st Life Guards, from Shorncliffe; the 4th Dragoon Guards and 20th Hussars, from Aldershot; the Scots Greys, shortly to be brought from Ireland; the 4th Hussars, from Colchester; the 8th Hussars, from Norwich; and the 17th Lancers, from Hounslow.