

BATTALION DRILL MADE EASY. By W. Gordon, late Sergt.-Major 2nd Scots Guards. 5th edition. Enlarged and rewritten on an entirely new and improved principle, with 57 illustrations. Pp 250. Price 2/ or 20/ per doz.

We have carefully examined Mr. Gordon's manual upon battalion drill and find it to be a complete and accurate elucidation of Part III. of the new Infantry Drill. The sections, though taken in the same order as in the drill book, are so arranged that on completion of each movement the battalion is left in correct position for taking up the next. The work may therefore be said to comprise one continuous field day. Every single movement in battalion drill is explained under all the various positions, and the illustrations being full as well as numerous, help to simplify the study of each section. In the Infantry Drill references are constantly being made to preceding paragraphs, which have to be turned up, read and examined, and the result is confusing and troublesome. Mr. Gordon has entirely obviated this defect in his book, and the work is one of the best handbooks on battalion drill we have yet seen. The official changes and additions to the new drill book recently laid down in Army Orders have been included. We venture to say that every officer and non-commissioned officer who masters this book, has practically absorbed the essence of battalion drill. In size, the book is handy, and the price cheap.

BRIGADE DRILL MADE EASY. By W. Gordon, late Sergt.-Major 2nd Scots Guards. 4th edition, revised and enlarged. 41 illustrations. Cloth, pp. 128. Price 2/ or 20/ per dozen.

The book, which is illustrated by many diagrams and illustrations, is a most useful handbook to all students of infantry drill, and should certainly be read by all field officers and adjutants. All explanations requisite for comprehending and executing any movement are given with the description of the evolution under notice, thus enabling the student to perceive at a glance the details for carrying it out, together with the place assigned to each individual connected with the brigade thereby accomplishing the object of rendering each movement intelligible in itself. The work is compendious, the design clear and ably carried out. We feel sure those who purchase it will be satisfied with their investment, and those who study it will be repaid for their trouble.

GUIDES AND MARKERS' DUTIES IN COMPANY, BATTALION AND BRIGADE DRILL. By W. Gordon, late Sergt. Major 2nd Scots Guards. 5th edition, fully illustrated, pp. 300, cloth, price 2/ or 20/ per doz.

This handbook is intended to enable guides and markers to perceive at a glance the several posts assigned to them in each movement, sparing them waste of time in the perusal of each section and ever-recurring references which are made to preceding sections during the explanation of movements in the Infantry Drill. The places assigned to guides and markers are given in well executed plates, with the description of each movement. It supplies a want long felt, and is highly recommended to all officers and n. c. officers who desire to possess an intelligent knowledge of their duties on parade.

PHYSICAL DRILL WITHOUT ARMS MADE EASY, in accordance with the new Infantry Drill. Cloth, 3rd edition, illustrated with 26 plates, pp. 20. Price, 1/; in paper covers, 9d. each or 7/6 per dozen.

Endeavours have been made in this little book to give examples of how to practise physical drill. The system is the one taught at Aldershot. To facilitate instruction, the author has added at the end of the book 26 plates, giving the various positions throughout the drill. Its hints and directions are invaluable, not only to military men, but also to civilians as affording a valuable gymnastic training without the necessity of an instructor.

PHYSICAL DRILL WITH ARMS, NEW BAYONET EXERCISE, AND ATTACK AND DEFENCE. Arranged by William Gordon. Cloth, pp. 72, illustrated with 36 plates. Price, 1/; in paper covers, 9d., or 7/6 per dozen.

An invaluable book, thanks to the numerous and well executed plates contained in it, as well as the directions and explanations of the various movements, and a list of the times at which the exercise can be performed. As the "Physical Drill," both with and without arms, and the "Bayonet Exercise," are now features of regimental inspections, we commend this work, as well as "Physical Drill Without Arms," to all officers. They are capital little books and well worthy of study.

Col. R. H. Hall, U. S. A., Inspector General, Department of Arizona, recommends that "the colour of the facings of the cavalry arm of the service be changed to orange," the yellow of the cloth as well as of the plumes not being durable, and it not being difficult to procure a durable orange colour.

In the Mother Country.

The Bingham Challenge Shield, value £250, which has been won twice in succession by the Leeds Rifles, was recently presented to Col. Wilson, the commanding officer, on behalf of the corps, in the Victoria Hall, Leeds. The presentation took place at eight o'clock, but previous to this, the Mayor and Mayoress of Leeds (Alderman and Mrs. Ward) received in the Mayor's Rooms, Town Hall, the President, Vice-Presidents and Council of the Yorkshire V.B. Team Competition and the Volunteer Officers of Yorkshire. The function was a brilliant one, the attendance of officers and other guests being very large. By eight o'clock the Victoria Hall was quite full. Dr. Spark played selections on the organ, and the Leeds Artillery band was also in attendance, so that the interval which elapsed between the opening of the doors and the commencement of the presentation proceedings was pleasantly beguiled. The competition is for teams of 12 men per regiment, and is open to Yorkshire. This year 16 regiments entered and balloted for opponents in the first round, then the eight winning teams were paired for the second round, and so on until two teams were only left (York and Leeds), when these, on Aug. 31st, shot off for the Championship and the shield. The Leeds 12 scored 1,052 over Queen's ranges, and York 1,018, leaving Leeds the winners for the second time of the magnificent trophy, with the excellent average of 87 $\frac{2}{3}$ points per man.

The annual engineering competition took place at the headquarters of the 1st Lancashire Engineers recently, there being a fair muster of members to witness the competing squads do the work assigned. Major M'Pherson, R.E., commanding Royal Engineers (Liverpool), kindly acted as umpire. For recruits the competition was the construction of four fascines, full size. The principal competition, however, was the construction of two barrel piers and the formation of a raft. Only two squads of sixteen men each competed; but the work of both was so excellent, and the time occupied so short, that great excitement and curiosity prevailed as to the result. Ultimately, Capt. Green, R.E., read out the decision, the first prize being awarded to I Company (No. 2), Sergt. Fisher, time 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes; D Company, Sergt. Delaney, taking second prize. In the recruits' competition No. 2, 3, and 1 Companies took first, second, and third prizes respectively. Major M'Pherson, R. E., said it had given him great pleasure to act as judge. He thought the work was well and creditably done. If the time came when their services would be wanted for their country, they would in a very short time be of immense assistance.

On the much discussed subject of equipment, the *Volunteer Service Gazette* says: "We look, we must confess, with much anxiety for the results of the extraordinary action which it pleased her Majesty's Government to take last June in regard to the volunteers. Until the issue of the Adjutant-General's letter in that month on the subject of equipment, it had been supposed that the volunteer is not, in theory at least, bound to give anything to the state except his time, and that the state had to provide everything else necessary for his military efficiency. Practically we know the state takes such a very peculiar view as to what is necessary, that the volunteers in most districts could not exist at all unless either their friends or their officers put their hands into their pockets to defray the expenses which cannot be met out of the funds given by the Government. The announcement of the Adjutant-General last summer that the Government expected that a number of articles of equipment should be provided in each volunteer corps as a new condition of efficiency, was therefore a great blow, especially to corps in country districts. The late Lord Mayor of London, Sir James Whitehead, appears to have foreseen the new requirement, and by his energy and influence, the Metropolitan Volunteers will, at any rate, have no difficulty in appearing at their inspections fully accoutred. The same will be the case in many counties such as Staffordshire, where the volunteers are popular. And in great towns there will be no difficulty. But in rural districts, it may not be so easy to comply with the new requirements of the Government. However, we are disposed to think that on the whole, there will be sufficient local *esprit de corps* to find funds for the comparatively small amount of equipments with which the volunteers will have to be supplied."

Captain Palliser has written to the press correcting the announcement that the French and Germans are about to change their steel guns for gun-metal guns. He believes that the Germans are about to give up powder-bags for field artillery, substituting "fixed ammunition," which means a solid-drawn copper case containing the powder, with the projectile fixed in front. Should the Germans take this course all large nations will probably do the same.