

No college, that I know of, none that I have read of, turns out cadets as thoroughly qualified officers for any branch of the service. I conceive such a result to be wholly impracticable.

It may aid in conveying a correct understanding of this point, to state that the British officer having entered the army from the Woolwich Academy, or Sandhurst College, has still before him, in addition to regimental training the School of Cavalry, the School of Military Engineering, the School of Gunnery, the Artillery College, and the Staff College.

What military entrance colleges may do, what this college has done, and does do with high efficiency, in addition to assisting militia officers to qualify for promotion, is to prepare cadets for first commissioned appointments in military service, to educate them so as to enable them to intelligently appreciate and utilise the experience they are about to acquire in a profession into which they have yet to enter.

It is the intellectual—it is not the mechanical side of soldiering which has chiefly to be dealt with at a military entrance college.

If our critics could for a moment have realized this point, and allowed honesty guided by intelligence to regulate their remarks, they could not have yielded to the malign influence which led them to disparage the work being worthily done by the instructors and cadets here. They might have learnt that in 1893, the Inspector General of Fortifications of Her Majesty's Forces, on a deputation on military education to the Secretary of State for War, spoke of our graduates in the highest terms, saying: "The officers we get elsewhere than from Woolwich, are far better than those who come from Woolwich, either with regard to science or with regard to general education. The officers which we get from the Military College of Canada are very good men indeed; it is true we get only one or two from there so perhaps they are the best the College can produce." Again, before a Royal Commission to inquire into the entrance examination, in 1894, they are referred to as having had a higher standard of work, and more knowledge of what was required by Royal Engineers, than graduates from Woolwich.

Our adverse critics might have learnt too, that within a few weeks preceding the commencement of their attacks, general progress had advanced to a point never before attained in the history of the College since its foundation in 1876.

Previous to the last four years, the most distinguished gold medallist of the College was Mr. Wm. J. Stewart, who graduated so long ago as 1883 with a record of 54,656 marks.

During the last four years that record has been exceeded in four instances by from 924 to 1,802 marks.

The next highest record made previously to 1892, was by Capt. Lang, D.S.O., R.E., with 53,505 in 1883. Since 1891 his record has been surpassed seven times, by an average of 1,769 marks.

The third highest record up to 1892 was made by Mr. R. W. Leonard, with 53,271 marks; this again in 1883. His score has been surpassed, since 1891, eight times, by an average of 2,760 marks.

Only three graduates just named—inclusive of but one gold medallist—find place and rank as 5th, 9th and 11th, amongst the following gentleman, who, with one exception in 1891, all graduated since 1891: Messrs. F. H. Vercoe, R.J.F. Hayter, J. F. Fraser, N. S. Ridout, G. R. Frith, G. F. F. Osborne, G. N. Cory, D. S. McInnes, G. S. Wilkes, V. L. Beer, W. C. Dumble, J. W. Osborne.

So that but for the men of 1883, all those whose names I have read, graduates of the last few years, surpassed all previous records since the foundation of the College in 1876. Moreover, prior to 1892, in only one instance did the marks of a gold medallist exceed the mere average marks of the graduating class of last year.

Far from supporting the charges made against the management of the College these records, evidence of the most reliable kind of recent strikingly satisfactory educational progress, are inconsistent with absence of discipline and prevalence of drunkenness.

Nor is there wanting confirmatory evidence, independent of college records, of the continued thoroughness of instruction here.