

district camps that medical men were becoming a nuisance, for they wanted too many things. The feeling among the militia generally is that we cannot do too much for the medical staff. In case of active service an effective medical organization can do a great deal for the comfort of the officers and men. They are just as ready to expose themselves to danger as the combatant officers. Sir Fred. Middleton especially complimented Dr. Ryerson, who was then in the Grenadiers, for his daring in exposing himself to the enemy's fire in the discharge of his duties at Batoche.

Dr. Ryerson is at present abroad, and he will, no doubt, be delighted that his long agitation has been successful. It is to be hoped, however, that he will continue the agitation for further reforms. Better equipment must be made available. The Government should do more to encourage training in military ambulance work.

#### THE D.A.A.G.'S DUTIES.

EDITOR GAZETTE. We have had several discussions in the Institute recently as to the duties of the new D.A.A.G. Is he the assistant to the A.G. and is he the next in order for promotion to that office? What is his rank?

Toronto, June 13.

A FIELD OFFICER.

The duties of the deputy assistant adjutant-general at headquarters are as follows:

1. The examination of recommendations for the appointment, promotion and retirement of officers of the active and reserve militia.
2. The individual record of service of all officers.
3. The editing of the Official Militia List.
4. The preparation, printing and distribution of general orders.
5. The examination and registration of certificates of qualification issued from the several schools of military instruction.
6. The preparation, registration and issuing of commissions to officers of the active and reserve militia.
7. The examination of discharge documents of N.C.O.'s and men of permanent corps of active militia on becoming non-effective.
8. Questions relating to the examination of candidates for admission to the Royal Military College of Canada; and the confidential printing of papers for all examinations of cadets at the Royal Military College.
9. The periodical revision of the Regulations and Orders for the militia.

This appointment seems to have created an unusual stir, probably because so many officers of the permanent staff are looking forward to possible promotion to the headquarters staff. In this instance they think Major Bliss, owing to being a son-in-law of Hon. Mr. Costigan, was promoted over their heads. We do not agree with this view. His rank in the militia is major, and he is junior to every officer commanding a district or regiment. We do not think a D.A.A.G. should have a higher rank, but when Major Bliss has been ten years a major he certainly de-

serves the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In a former article in these columns it was pointed out that he was a hard working officer. This was verified by Col. Maunsell a few days ago. He was organizing a school of instruction at Ottawa and needed a good adjutant. He picked Major (then Lieut.) Bliss out of a number who were recommended to him, and he was not disappointed. He found him a most painstaking and efficient officer.

#### SWINGING THE ARM.

DEAR SIR, Referring to an article in THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE of the 1st June, in which the editor quoted an Army Order in justification of the Victoria Rifles swinging the disengaged arm when marching past, I beg leave to take exception to the right of any regiment or corps of the Canadian militia to act under any such order, the editor to the contrary. The Army Act is published to the Imperial forces, and is what our General Orders are to the Canadian militia, and I maintain that till such general orders have been issued to the whole force, that not even our permanent corps have any right to introduce changes till all are on an equal footing.

FRED. LYDON,

Bt. M. and Adj. R.S. of C.

Montreal, June 11, 1896.

The above appears in the well-edited military column of The Montreal Gazette.

We hold that there are three reasons why this army order should be followed by the Canadian militia: First—Because the Militia Department have sanctioned the 1893 infantry drill for use in the Canadian militia, therefore the changes in that book must also be followed, whether a special general order has been issued concerning them or not.

Second—It is being taught by instructors at the various military schools; what these schools teach should be followed—even if some of us think they are wrong—by all the infantry corps. Many of us are very much inclined to question some of the innovations in drill taught by the schools. As THE GAZETTE has once before remarked, military men are extremely conservative, and the most extreme conservative in matters of drill is an old soldier—one who has served with the regular force. We don't like the new way of doing things, and we are apt to be at variance with the younger generation of instructors. Major Lydon must not take this as referring to him only, for the majority of city regiments in every part of Canada have serjeant-majors or adjutants soldiers of the older school. Good reliable men they are, too. If would be better if we had more of them. What they lose in being too conservative they more than make up in practical knowledge they have gained from long experience.

Third—The last and most important

reason is that the Adjutant-General's office practically recognises these army orders, for copies of these orders were sent to all officers commanding districts and commandants of schools of instruction by the Adjutant-General's office. If it were not intended that they should be followed by the commanders of districts and schools of instruction, why were they sent out? As we stated in our last issue, it would be better if the D.A.A.G. would republish these orders for general information in the Militia General Orders. For one cause or another, the Militia General Orders are not seen by the majority of the officers, as they do not now go direct to those interested.

#### A TOURNAMENT FOR MONTREAL.

NOW that the drill season is about over why should not the city corps put their heads together and get up some display as a wind-up for the season's work? Have a small tournament. If not on such a grand scale as the Toronto one, have one that will give the men in the different corps an idea of what it is like. There could be a good display by teams from the district alone. Let two or three teams from each corps go in for bayonet exercise, physical drill, etc., and have the G.A. give a display in big gun drill, while the Field Battery and Hussars could also add their part to the display. It is a matter that should command the earnest attention of the different corps. Such meetings help to keep the regiments together, as they draw men to the ranks, while at the same time a course of instruction such as would have to be gone through would give the men a better knowledge as to the handling of arms than can be imparted at the ordinary drills. Apart from the experience they would gain, it would also smarten them up. Montreal, in the matter of holding her own in tournaments and such like, is far and away behind any of the other districts. This cannot be laid altogether at the door of the men, for there are plenty of them who would only be too willing to take advantage of such instruction. The fault lies, to a great extent, with the officers for not taking the lead. There is ample accommodation at the north end of the drill shed for the erection of a gymnasium. We had expected to have seen some move made here by this time, but, like everything else, it has been laid aside, and the chances are that nothing more will be heard about it until it is too late for any work to be done this season. We hope to see ere long some steps taken by the officers for the furtherance of such a display as would not only be of interest to the general public, but would be of lasting benefit to those taking part.