

## BOERS AND THE RIFLE.

The rifle is the Boers' first and last love. Taking such a simple fact as that in 1,000 yards range, with the wind blowing three miles an hour, a bullet will be deflected about fifteen feet, it is easy to see the defect of a system which allows a volunteer only forty rounds a year for practice. However, leaving the militia to look after its own business, the value of organized local clubs in city and country for the scientific study and practice of long-range shooting, seems worthy of attention. Quite independent of Government supervision, and unattached to any militia body, the practice could be indulged in with the same personal and patriotic interest. One of the most feasible plans would in some cases be the incorporation of rifle clubs as part of our athletic clubs. I have not attempted to elaborate details or propose any particular scheme, but to suggest, that the popularity of the rifle and range practice should now become the chief national pastime of our people.

## RIFLE NOT FINAL DEVELOPMENT.

Of course we need not imagine that the magazine rifle is the final development of destructive ingenuity. Perhaps before we know where we are we will be fighting in mid-air, and ballooning may be brought to such perfection that we shall have our air-troops as well as our land-troops. At any rate, we might as well to-day rely upon bows and arrows as the old rifles which we thought perfection when our corps was first organized. In connection with scientific additions to the rifle, Dr. Conan Doyle has invented an appliance, "weighing nothing, costing about a shilling, taking up no space, and interfering in no way with the present sight," which is adapted for high-angle firing, and which is intended to get at an enemy in a trench or behind cover. During the present war we have learned that direct fire is of little avail where the enemy is behind cover and is wise enough to keep there. Dr. Doyle's apparatus, affixed to the rifle, would enable a man to know at what angle to hold the rifle to drop bullets, like rain, at any given range. Another British inventor has great confidence in a discovery he has made, a small apparatus by means of which the marksman aims with both eyes open. It is a hinged clip, fixed to the band of the rifle on the left hand side, which obstructs so much of the sight of the left eye as is unnecessary, and permits the remainder of it to collaborate with the right eye, showing, from tabulated results, nearly double the accuracy of rifle practice. I mention these inventions to show