

to be utterly useless." This was, I believe, specially the case in the French Army, before the last war. Here, as far as my experience goes, it scarcely ever happens. Incapable officers are ruthlessly weeded out, it being considered better to hurt the feelings of one man than to risk the lives of a thousand by the results of his incompetency. Here the rule of promotion is seniority, tempered not generally by selection, but by rejection very rigidly carried out. In special cases only there is selection; and employment on the Staff, as a rule, lays open the road to quicker promotion than is otherwise usual. In the junior ranks advancement is somewhat slower than in the English Army; in the higher ranks infinitely quicker. Five years' service in the rank of Major gives that of Lieutenant Colonel, and three in that of Lieutenant Colonel the rank of Colonel. I am told that the average length of service in order to command a regiment is 23 years, and the ordinary duration of command six years. The higher ranks, too, are very much better paid than in the English Army, where indeed the rise of pay in proportion to rank is lower than in that of any other service. A General commanding an army corps has 10,000 thalers, or about £2,500, a year, forage free for eight horses, a roomy house, and other advantages. A General commanding a division has 5,500 thalers a year, forage for six horses, and lodging allowance; a Brigadier has 3,300 thalers, forage for five horses, and lodging money; an officer commanding a regiment or of a corresponding rank has 2,600 thalers a year in the Cavalry forage for five horses, and in the Infantry for three. Considering how much cheaper the style of living is in this country than in England; and, except in Berlin and one or two of the large towns, how much cheaper are the necessaries of life, a regimental commanding officer, with his £390 a year and allowances, is far better off than his comrade in England. The junior ranks are most indifferently paid. As regards money they do not receive actually as much as in England, but there again the cost of living more than counterbalances the difference in actual money. A subaltern in Cavalry regiment told me the other day that he could dine well on 10 groschen, or 1s., a day, which is the price of his usual mess dinner; and that for 20 groschen, or 2s., a day he could live comfortably. Forage entirely free is given for two horses to subalterns in the Cavalry, and for three to Captains. In addition to this privilege they can buy forage from Government at a very cheap rate for any extra horses they may like to keep. An officer told me that the keep of his extra horses cost him about 10s. a piece per month, or about half as much as his charges—for which he receives an allowance from Government—cost an English officer. Besides, nearly all German officers, and all without exception in the Guards and Cavalry, have considerable means beyond their pay—in fact, in many regiments commanding officers will not receive young men into their regiments unless they can show that they are possessed of a private income. The amount necessary varies with the regiment and the place where it is quartered. It may here be remarked that commanding officers of regiments are very nearly supreme regarding the acceptance or rejection in the first instance of candidates for commissions. After first nomination, moreover, they have to serve six months on probation before they have any claim to look for a commission.

As of course is well known, the rank and file in the Prussian Army are miserably

paid and equally badly fed according to our ideas. The only ration which a private soldier receives in peace is 1½ lb. of coarse bread. His pay is 36 thalers a year or about 9s. a month; from this a deduction of 1½ groschen, or about 1½d., a day is made for messing, and to this is added an allowance made by Government, which varies according to the garrison, and is fixed quarterly. On the whole, it may be said, that each German soldier has a bowl of gruel or coffee in the morning, and one meal in the middle of the day provided for him, also that he has about 2½d. remaining over from his pay to provide his supper. It certainly seems strange how healthy and well fed they all appear to be; the only explanation is that they receive assistance from their friends. Sergeants are proportionately much better paid than in England; but, as far as I can gather, there is at present no fixed rate of pay laid down for the non-commissioned ranks. A bargain is made with each non-commissioned officer, as with a servant, varying from one time to another, to induce him to serve on according as his services are considered valuable or not. Above all, after they quit the Army they are well provided for, and in this country it is wholly unknown that a deserving non-commissioned officer should be seen seeking for some employment and unprovided for after he has served his time. That this should occur in England reflects but little credit on our Government.

I think that many new and valuable ideas may be derived from conversation with people who, like the Germans, have devoted so much time and energy to the study of the military profession. As a rule, German officers are very imperfectly acquainted with English institutions or with the English Army. They obtain but little leave of absence, and but rarely go as far as England. Some few, however, have been there, and retain unpleasant recollections of English hotels, where they have been badly treated and overcharged. Those who have visited Aldershot speak of the kind way in which they have been received and mounted and of the excellent luncheons there provided for them. Although, however, German military men know very little personally of English life, of English sport or of the English Army, they are most assiduous in the manner in which they have read and studied all books and reports connected with England, and on the whole they have a good theoretical knowledge of our institutions. There is one point regarding which they are never tired of expressing their astonishment, and that is the civilian government of the Army. They say that they would as soon have thought of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Breslau to go out in command of the 6th Corps when it attacked the 5th during the recent manoeuvres in Silesia as of placing a civilian to control their Army. When told that the English taxpayer requires some guarantee that his money is not wasted, and that this is only to be obtained by placing a civilian in charge of the money bags they argue that to hand over the expenditure of money to a man who can have no experience as to how it ought to be laid out is the best guarantee for its being wasted, that such a system leaves the responsible Minister of the Crown in the hands of permanent clerks until he learns his business by which time he probably goes out of office, and hence that these permanent and irresponsible clerks rule the Army. They further point out that the fact of the War Minister being a civilian disarms suspicion, and hence that his estimates are not subject to such close

scrutiny and dissection as is wholesome, and as would be the case if he were a professional man.

There is also another matter regarding which I have heard distinguished German officers express very strong opinions and very great astonishment. They cannot understand how we get on without a "General Staff" Department, and profess great curiosity to know where and by whom the work of this Department is performed. It may be well to remark that this office in Berlin, connected with which about 70 officers are employed, is presided over by Count Moltke, and is perfectly distinct from the War Office, or that Department which answers to our Horse Guards. Count Moltke has nothing on earth to do with promotion or appointments in the Army, or with any patronage or routine work. He is the Chief of the General Staff, and as such the Emperor's chief adviser in time of war; but he in no way controls the Army. Indeed, it would be wholly impossible for him to work out the great questions and problems submitted to him if he did.

It is asked, I say, in Germany by whom and where are the duties of the General Staff performed in England. The reply I have been obliged to give is that some few, and very few, are carried out by our Intelligence Department, as far as it goes; others, again, are left to clerks at the War Office; others, again, are handed over to officials at the Horse Guards, who are already more than overburdened by the routine work of their office; other duties are left undone; and, lastly, many questions which ought to be worked out by the General Staff Department are deputed to irresponsible Commissions and Committees, the members of which are often, many of them, entirely ignorant of the matters which they are called upon to decide, and whose decisions, good or bad, are not unfrequently pigeon-holed and forgotten, or are deliberately disregarded. A very distinguished general officer of this Army some days since declared to me his conviction that until we had a General Staff Department, organized on a proper footing, we should never be able to do justice to the admirable qualities of our soldiers, to the zeal and intelligence of our officers, or to the vast amount of money which is expended on our Army.

The Future of the Colonies.

Few subjects have of late years attracted more attention, or excited more deep and anxious thought, either at home or abroad, than the Future of the Colonies. Some time ago, under the leadership of a certain school of politicians, the theory was advocated very generally that separation was necessary and unavoidable, and that it was the duty of all concerned to be prepared for such an issue, when the clock of destiny had struck the fullness of the time. The cost of keeping such an establishment, the various and conflicting interests to be cared for; the wide distance from which they lie from each other, and from the Mother Country; and the danger of the whole becoming involved in war through the contiguity of some weak and exposed portion to some strong and hostile power, were the arguments usually adduced in favor of the dismemberment of the Empire, what was to become of the Colonies was an after consideration, and one that was little thought of, and less cared for. Whether they would imitate the example of the petty States of South America, and set up for themselves, so weak and small that their only safety would be in their insignificance;