

cinthe battalion, had his leg severely bruised by a fall from his horse while drilling his battalion last week.

QUEBEC.—Colonel J. Bell Forsyth, Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, has returned by the Parisian from England. The corps during his absence was under the command of Lt.-Col. F. Wood Gray, and has been going through the usual annual drill for some weeks.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The English volunteer weeklies for the 2nd and 9th May are at hand, but contain little of interest to the Canadian militia. Taking them in order of seniority the *Volunteer Service Gazette* of the earlier date publishes an interesting discussion on General Sir E. Hawley's paper in the *Nineteenth Century* on "the volunteers in time of need," in which many distinguished officers participated, the feeling being very favorable to this arm of the service. A competition for places on the English twenty is recorded where the paralyzing score of 101 heads the list. In the later issue is an article on "Browning made easy," which might naturally be supposed to refer to the coloring of parts of rifles but is in reality a review of a hand-book to the works of the celebrated poet of that name. In both numbers reference to Canadian matters is conspicuous by its absence, though there is interesting correspondence from Australia. The chief features of the *Volunteer Service Review* are a column on "the National Aid Society and the medical staff corps," the prize list and regulations for the royal military tournament, and, as referring to us, some extracts from Halifax newspapers respecting the calling out of the Nova Scotia provisional battalion. The chatty little *Volunteer Record* gives part of the Wimbledon prize list in its issue of the 2nd, being rather belated, probably in consequence of its smaller size, but has no article of imposing length or of special importance to us, though it is extremely readable throughout.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

AMBULANCE CORPS.

Up to the present time, fortunately, the Canadian Militia has not stood much in need of an ambulance organization such as exists now in a greater or less degree of development in the military systems of all civilized nations, but it would seem as if the time had at last arrived when some scheme for equipping each battalion with its own ambulance corps, suitable to our militia system, should engage the attention of those in authority.

It is quite improbable that our forces will ever have another such experience as they have recently had in defending their fellow-citizens against foes from within, and there is nothing to show that we are in any danger of being attacked from without; still organization is organization and our system is incomplete without some sort of ambulance corps being arranged for, that would be in readiness to accompany its battalion when duty called "to the front."

It need not be equipped upon an extensive scale, nor be in any way a costly addition to our militia system, but could well be done efficiently in an inexpensive way so that an organization would exist in each battalion that would serve as a nucleus in time of need upon which to build as extensive an ambulance department as the necessities of the case demanded.

UNITED STATES SOLDIERS' AID ASSOCIATION.

In connection with the various soldiers' relief associations which have been formed all over the Dominion to supplement the supplies afforded by Government to our volunteers, the following synopsis of the proceedings of the United States Sanitary Commission during the late civil war in that country may prove of interest, and is communicated by a gentleman who assisted in its organization and subsequent working.

This association or commission was in the first place organized "from humane and patriotic motives, its labors to be its own reward." Its general object was through advisory suggestions to the Medical bureau of the War department to bring the ripest teachings of sanitary science in its application to military life to bear upon the health, comfort and morale of the troops.

Finding in many instances a great lack of anything beyond the actual necessities of life amongst regiments in the field, and especially after an engagement, a relief branch was affiliated to the commission, which subsequently became the main object of its work. Its duties were to inquire into the nature and sufficiency of hospital supplies; to determine the precise regulations and routine through which the services of the patriotic women of the country could be made available as nurses; the method of obtaining and regulating all other extra and donated supplies; the question of ambulance and field service and of extra medical aid, and whatever else related to the care, relief, or cure of the sick and wounded.

Three committees were appointed, one to communicate the commission's counsels to the Government; another to maintain direct relations with army officers, surgeons, camps and hospitals, to ensure the carrying out of the sanitary orders of the medical bureau of the War department, and a third to be in constant communication with the various States' governments and public benevolent associations interested in the army. As paid employees were absolutely necessary, money was needed, and a number of associate members were elected who gave their services in raising means for the operations of the commission, and ladies' associations in all parts of the country prepared clothing, bandages and supplies of all sorts, and forwarded them to depots centrally established.

The services of agents of the commission on the field immediately after, or when practicable, during the progress of important engagements, were found to be a necessity. The early difficulties of securing transportation for its supplies to the field soon necessitated the commission's own independent transport service both by land and water, and eventually by attaching to each army corps a superintendent of relief, with his assistants, waggons, ambulances, and supplies to remain constantly with his corps, and minister to the needs of the suffering. A large ship, the *St. Mark*, was chartered in New York, loaded with supplies, ballasted with hogsheads of fresh water, and was towed down to Fortress Monroe and Yorktown, where she was, after discharging her cargo, employed in the transport of wounded men and convalescents. Fresh vegetables especially, and anti-scorbutics promptly sent by the commission, are known in one instance to have stopped incipient scurvy in a whole regiment, raw onions having been asked for. Under the necessary slow movements of government these supplies could not have been furnished for weeks.

The general supplies of food, clothing, bedding, delicacies for the sick, stimulants for the wounded on the field and for the sick and wounded in camp, field or hospital, came from the branches of the commission, of which there were twelve, distributed through as many large cities or centres of population. Each branch had its own distinct field from which it drew its supplies, and had its auxiliary aid societies in towns, villages and church congregations. The stores collected by the branch were received at its depot, *opened, assorted each kind by itself*, repacked, and reports of the number, kind and amount of supplies thus accumulated were sent weekly to the principal office of the Commission or to the Associate Secretary of the eastern or western division (as the case might be) and shipped as ordered to the depots of distribution. The supplies furnished are acknowledged to have saved many valuable lives.

Women of every station volunteered as nurses, and when required were accepted. Medical men from all parts volunteered their services