

IT can scarcely be gainsaid that the general efficiency of a battery or brigade of artillery depends in no small degree upon the manoeuvring, and even though officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners are practically letter perfect in their work, the whole may, and very often does become ineffective largely on account of ignorance, lack of training, or inability on the part of these same officers and of drivers, in that portion pertaining to horses.

If as much care and attention were devoted to riding and driving and general knowledge of horses and horsemanship, as is vouchsafed gunnery, a much more creditable showing would be made collectively and individually. This then is the only apology offered for setting down the following notes and suggestions, crude as they are, and being merely the consensus of experience gathered during a period covering some fifteen annual training camps, they are more particularly applicable to rural corps of Field Artillery, this being the branch of the service whence such was derived. For that reason the theme commences with the enrolling of horses prior to Camp and carries on through the period of training until such time as horses are returned to owners, the entire subject may be expressed thus, "Systemize the horse-end of your batteries just as carefully and consistently as the gunnery, making the one the auxiliary to the other."

#### TYPES OF HORSES.

For convenience these may be divided into two classes :

- (1) RIDING or SADDLE Horses, for use of officers and n.c.o.'s.
- (2) DRAUGHT HORSES, for guns, ammunition and service waggons.

In the first class, care should be taken to choose those of the lighter breeds best adapted to quick movement, having care that they are not too light or too heavy. Nothing looks worse or is more detrimental to the efficiency of a battery than to have an officer weighing 180 pounds or more mounted on a fourteen and a half hand pony, or a trumpeter of a hundred pounds riding a clumsy draught horse of fourteen or fifteen hundred weight. In choosing mounts, common sense is really the best guide, and in such choice the matter should be left to the officer or n.c.o. of the battery, whose experience along these lines makes him best qualified for the work.

In the second class, as far as possible, let your horses, particularly for the guns, be of uniform size and conformation. If it should so happen (and it nearly always does) that the range of size and weight varies, the better plan is to pick the larger or more clumsy animals for service and ammunition waggons, then the next in size and weight for wheel teams in the guns, leaving the lighter