

movements that are still in Chapter VIII., which deals with the instruction of the battery and brigade mounted, might, we think, have been omitted with advantage: Manœuvres such as changing front on the central sub-division, and "left," or "right back," would never be attempted except on the parade ground, and are merely useful as exercises in driving. Driving can be equally well taught without burthening the minds of the officers and men with details which they would only learn to forget on service, and the time spent on perfecting a battery in all the various evolutions still comprised in the drill book might be more advantageously employed in teaching gunnery, and all that tends to make a man a good shot.

The greatest artillerist of the age has gone so far as to say that the advance "in line" and "column of route" are all the movements a battery need find use for in the presence of the enemy. While still believing in the value of drill evolutions as calculated to improve discipline, horsemanship, and driving, we still think they should be kept as simple and few as possible, and therefore regret that the pruning knife has not been more courageously applied in the present case. With these slight exceptions, however, we feel sure that the new Manual will be warmly welcomed by officers, and especially by those who take an interest in the practical work of their profession. It may be accepted as an earnest that the authorities are alive to the points of real value in a battery, and that practical efficiency will in future attract more attention than a showy superficial excellence. We have so few guns that we must look to them all to hit, and hit hard.

Regimental and Other News.

An interesting meeting took place in Montreal recently, when the Sergeant-Majors of the nine corps there met for the first time, and had a beneficial discussion on matters pertaining to the welfare of the Montreal militia generally, and of the non-commissioned ranks in particular. The Sergeant-Majors had hitherto been unacquainted with each other. The initiative step in bringing about the meeting was made by Sergeant-Major Gardner, of the Vics. Now that the ice has been broken it is proposed to have meetings periodically, and a regular organization of Sergeant-Majors will be established.

THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

Five hundred and twenty-seven officers and men turned out for the Queen's Own parade last week. After assembling at the drill shed they marched, under command of Major Sankey, to the corner of Jarvis and Wilton avenue, preceded by an advance guard. From there they marched to Church street, and thence to Wellington street pavement, where they practised the manual exercise, general salute and the march past. On the return of the regiment to the shed it was announced that Private Pearson had been promoted to be corporal in "E" Company, vice Hector, promoted; Corporal Thorn to be sergeant in "G" Company, vice Sanson, discharged; and Private Capp to be Corporal in "G" Company, vice Thorn, promoted.

The following names were also read out as having qualified as marksmen for the year 1889:

Battalion's best shot, Staff Sergt. Harp, D Company. Silk cross guns:—Color-Sergt. Donnelly, A Company; Corp. Duncan, A Company; Corp. Westman, A Company; Priv. Westman, A Company; Priv. Meadows, A Company; Priv. McNeil, A Company; Priv. Turner, D Company; Corp. Agnew, F Company; Corp. Bryant, F Company; Sergt. Sanson, G Company; Corp. Thorn, G Company; Sergt. Brooks, K Company. Worsted Cross Guns:—Sergt. Owen, C Company; Corp. Batstone, C Company; Priv. Blainey, D Company; Priv. Dewdney, D Company; Priv. Matthews, E Company; Corp. Cockburn, E Company; Priv. Davison, F Company; Priv. Argles, H Company; Bugler Scott.

After the parade Captain Macdonald presented the prizes won at the recent matches to the fortunate shots in "G" Company.

Fort Mississagua.

A correspondent of the Toronto *Empire* thus writes concerning the historic past, which it is the intention of the Dominion Government to in part restore so as to preserve it as a relic:

"After the burning of Niagara in December, 1813, by the enemy when they evacuated the town, the ruins of it were gathered up and built into a fort in 1814, and this fort, together with the American Fort Niagara—which had been captured by our troops in December, 1813, and the Canadian Fort George on the other side of the town—formed together such a strong triangle of defence that the American army of regular troops and their best generals—under Brown, Riely and Scott—which invaded the Niagara frontier in June, 1814, and marched full of confidence down to Niagara, were suddenly held in check by the concentrated fires of Fort Mississagua, Fort George and Fort Niagara, and could make no impression upon them. The invading army was victor-

iously repulsed, and retreated back the road they came, followed up by the British troops under Riall and Drummond, when the great battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, completed their overthrow, and the enemy fled to Fort Erie and again evacuated Canada, and sued for peace by sending Henry Clay, the main author of the war, to London to make peace on any terms available. In these important events Fort Mississagua played its part bravely and nobly. It deserves an honourable place in our history and is worthy of the reparation which the government is bestowing on its time-honoured walls.

"It is worth mentioning in this connection that at this moment the United States Government is repairing Fort Niagara, opposite Mississagua, and will expend \$300,000 upon it in the next two years. That fort is in a bad state for needed repairs. So long as the Democratic party were in power they would not do anything, the locality of the fort being in a Republican county, but now that the Republicans are in power at Washington, large sums are to be expended for repairs. That is the way of American federal finance, still it is gratifying to us to hear that a fort which was once ours is to be rescued from ruin and decay."

The Rifle.

The new Mauser magazine rifle has been definitively adopted for the re-arming of the Belgian army. The manufacturers will have to furnish 300,000, and the cost of each rifle will be about 80 francs.

On the occasion of the distribution of prizes by Lady Roberts, at the Simla rifle meeting, says the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*, the Commander-in-Chief, in the course of his speech, insisted on the necessity of good shooting in the battlefield. It is better not to fire at all than to fire wildly. Mentioning the new weapon which is to replace the Martini, he said that with the new rifle he expected that the men would be able to put a bullet through a loophole at 400, and pour rapid volleys into enclosures at 2,500 yards. Marksmanship was a tradition of the English race. Musketry had been placed on such a firm basis in the army in India, that the necessity of mastering it, both theoretically and practically, was hardly ever disputed. The scores of the present meeting showed a marked improvement. Referring to the simultaneous match, he congratulated the 7th Dragoon Guards on winning it, especially mentioning Private Phillips, who made 35 at 200, 34 at 500, and 33 at 600 yards—a total of 102 out of a possible 105. This is characterised as magnificent shooting. The Diana competition was won by his daughter at the highest possible score of 35.

The latest eclipsing of team shooting performances was done recently by a team of ten members of H Company of the 2nd Liverpool in a match fired at Wrexham. The grand total of the team was 920 points—an average of 92 points per man, and its members were: Lieut. Burrell, 96; Pte. Skinner, 95; Pte. Paul, 94; Pte. Thornton, 94; Pte. Dodd, 94; Corpl. Hooton, 92; Major Davison, 90; Lieut. Baker, 90; Lieut. McCann, 88; and Sergt. McCoy, 87.

It is feared that Hythe as a school of musketry instruction is doomed, for a large new school on exactly the same lines has been formed at Aldershot, where, it seems, everything in the way of army shooting is being gradually concentrated. The reason of the new school being brought to Aldershot is not far to seek, and is a good omen that our soldiers will very soon have the new repeating rifle in their hands. That weapon will shoot with accuracy up to 2,000 yards, and the ranges at Hythe do not give a greater length than a thousand. For a few years the lesser ranges at Hythe will be used, but instruction at the longer ranges will be given at Aldershot.

Capt. Chase, of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, writing on the subject of real proficiency with the rifle, says: "Rifle-shooting calls for peculiar qualities of mind and body, and as steadiness is pre-requisite, it exacts much of every man who would excel. The training is severe, with constant self-denial, and that a man is a first rate all-round shot is *prima facie* evidence that he is in good form and possessed of abundant self-control, qualities that go to make up a good citizen as well as capable soldier. For such competitions as those in England and the annual meeting at Creedmoor when the army and volunteers cross rifles, experience goes a long way, and tried men are most desirable. It is perhaps natural that that the team is made up about the same, and that once on, is a *quasi patent* to a permanent place. . . . The possibility of being called into service seems so remote it becomes overlooked and and some men value their rifles if at all more for the medals to be won, than as the final recourse to sustain their country in a crisis. . . . Now, as to qualifications for marksmanship: Where practicable, armoury firing with reduced charge is most desirable instruction, but it should go without the saying that no man, new to the rifle, ought to fire on a range before practice in the *aiming drill*—it is a waste of ammunition, and too often develops a slouchy, hopelessly uncertain shot. In almost every company there are a few fairly good marksmen who can 'expend' the