

that time it had failed to receive that amount of attention which he felt it deserved. From the date of the first improvement in rifled firearms down to the French and German war there was universal tendency throughout Europe to decri Cavalry and to declare that the time was gone by for it again to play an important part in war. Strange to say, the tendency to depreciate the arm which, above all others, required the most care and labour to bring it to perfection had repaid from time to time ever since armies came into existence, and had invariably been accompanied by a general decadence or falling off in the science of war. If they studied the development of Cavalry from its earliest days, they would find that in every period of the world's history when military art had attained any pitch of excellence Cavalry had invariably been much developed and had been most sedulously cultivated. The history of the world was marked out in periods or eras, with each of which was associated the name of some chief or conqueror who by superior ability, organization, or opportunities had handed to posterity a great military reputation. Strange to say, the name of each one of these, almost without exception, was also associated with the special excellence of the Cavalry he commanded. In the earlier times, Sesostris, the first great Egyptian Monarch, of whom they had any authentic record, and who may be said to have been the greatest man of his day, appears from the evidence of all contemporary writers, both sacred and profane, to have had in his Army a body of regular Cavalry, and the prophet Isaiah mentions that the Egyptians were the first horsemen of the world. It was curious that the first time light Cavalry was spoken of was in reference to a corps of Amazons mentioned by Herodotus and of whom Hippocrates also speaks. After the decline of the Egyptian power, Alexander and Philip of Macedon might be next said to have been the most renowned conquerors that had left their mark on history, and both had been noted for the perfection to which they brought their Cavalry—to whose excellence, indeed, they owed most of their victories. Referring to other leaders in ancient and modern times, Hannibal in the former and Frederick the Great in the latter period owed their victories to their Cavalry. The Duke of Marlborough won his two greatest victories—Blenheim and Ramillies—by the timely and efficient action of his horsemen. After the death of Frederick the Great, it might be said that the sun of Cavalry Service set, and only rose for a short time, and with diminished brightness, in the days of Napoleon, who owed many of his victories to the action of his Cavalry both off and on the battle field. He, also, like Cæsar and Alexander, was checked in his career of victory by the want of Cavalry, as he himself said at St. Helena. Had he possessed Cavalry after the Battles of Lützen and Bautzen, the campaign of 1813 would have ended, and Napoleon would have been defeated, and the Battle of Leipzig nor Waterloo would have been fought. Among the many losses that he suffered in the Russian War the annihilation of his Cavalry was the most serious. He appeared at the head of another army in the following Spring, but he could not re create a force of Cavalry in a few months, and to this might be traced all his subsequent misfortunes. From the fall of Napoleon down to the present day Cavalry had in no way had that relative importance or received that attention which it deserved. Passing on to the late war, the lecturer said that they all knew that the lesson learnt by the Prussians in 1866 was not thrown away. He was sure they all knew that the admirable manner in

which the duties of outpost and reconnaissance were performed conducted more than any other cause to the success of the campaign. Speaking of the requisites for a Cavalry leader, the lecturer said that it had been remarked, and he thought with great truth, that all the qualities which make a good man to hounds were those which were most valuable for a Cavalry officer. He must ride well, he must be bold and fearless, he must have a good eye and quick decision; but these qualities were all useless unless he also had discretion and knowledge; without those gifts, like any one riding across country, he would sooner or later come to desperate grief. He thought that in the next great European war they would see a new phase of Cavalry warfare. He dared say they all remembered that last August some alarm was felt throughout Europe by a report that Russia was mobilizing her Cavalry. It turned out that mobilizing was the wrong word; it should have been reorganizing, and that Russia was only following the example of the other great Powers, and was forming her Cavalry into independent divisions along her frontier, so that it might be able to take the field within a few days of a declaration of war. He therefore ventured to make a prediction, of the truth of which he was fully satisfied, although he had not heard it suggested elsewhere, that within a few days after the next European war was declared they would hear of a great Cavalry battle which would exercise not only a great moral, but also a great material influence on the ultimate fate of the campaign. The Cavalry of each combatant will press on that of the other, each will attempt at one point to tear aside the curtain before, and the result will be a great Cavalry action. The General whose horsemen prove victorious will not only have the advantage of an early success, but will also have the incalculable advantage of the acknowledged superiority of his Cavalry, which will enable him to screen his own movements and to penetrate those of his adversary. The same was true in the case of an English Army. In any expedition which they were forced to send on to the Continent of Europe their independent Cavalry division would invariably bear the first brunt of the battle. He could not help regretting that they had not, like other nations, remount depôts, where their young horses could be trained and seasoned until they were fit to be placed in the ranks; and he thought that it was neither fair to the horses themselves nor to men who rode them to expect four year olds to gallop with a 17 stone weight on their backs or to do the work of old horses. He did not think that it would be desirable to convert any of their small body of Cavalry into mounted riflemen, or to create any new arm answering to that description, but he did not see any reason whatever why Cavalry soldiers proper should not be drilled and accustomed to perform all the manoeuvres of Infantry or why their being able to do so should impair their efficiency on horseback. There was one thing, however, specially necessary if horsemen were to be thus employed, and that was that they should be armed with a weapon equal in every respect to what they would meet. Having referred to the tactics pursued by the Cavalry at the battles of Zorndorf, Marengo, Waterloo, &c., he concluded by saying that he was far from being one of those who pretended to think that the British Army was going to the dogs or that it would fight a bit less brilliantly now than it always did; but there was one point on which he together, he was sure, with every Cavalry officer felt great disquietude, and that was, on account of the

small force of Cavalry they possessed. He regretted still more the impossibility of replacing it, and not only of replacing it, but even of filling up the gaps which the first fortnight of a campaign would cause in the ranks. Half drilled men, if then sent into the right place, were invaluable when incorporated with drilled and experienced soldiers of the infantry battalions. But in Cavalry it was very different. So far from being useful, untrained men and horses were absolutely dangerous. They threw everything into disorder, and, like Von Hake's Hussars at the battle of Waterloo, were worse than useless. Nevertheless, although more than five years had now passed away since the reorganization of the English Army was commenced, they had not yet seen any signs of Cavalry Reserves either of men or horses. Their small force of Cavalry, once gone, drooped, or, indeed, could not be replaced. Their armies might win brilliant victories, but their fruits could not be gathered, and he was sure all there then would join with him in expressing his earnest hope that the day might not be far distant when that omission might be repaired.

At the conclusion of the lecture the Chairman rose and said that their thanks were due to the lecturer for drawing their attention to various important and interesting matters. As regarded there being a large body of Cavalry, that was a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, and they could not have a larger body without increasing the Army Estimates. If it was thought necessary to have a larger body of Cavalry, he should be glad for it to be raised, but it could not be done without increased expenditure. As to the matter of young horses, circumstanced as they were, he did not think it was necessary to feed them up and get nothing out of them, but to back them early. He was not one of those who thought that the days of Cavalry had gone by. The difficulty attending any manoeuvres of large bodies of horses in this country, as Major Russell had said, was very great, although every facility was given and great liberality shown by owners of property. Having referred to other matters connected with the lecture, he concluded by saying that as they might wish to make some remarks on the matter, he thought it would be better for him to retire—not that he was not interested in what would be said, but that they might discuss the question with more freedom. He should, therefore, vote General Shute into the Chair. General Shute accordingly having taken the chair, a discussion ensued, and the proceedings afterwards terminated.

The London Engineer informs us that the English Admiralty are going to attack the Devastation with Whitehead torpedoes, with big charges. The ship is to be fitted with a crinoline of wire netting, suspended on spars projecting from the ship's sides, and it is intended that this netting shall explode the torpedo when 25 ft. away from the ship. The editor's view of the matter is that a wire netting is a very doubtful protection. Nothing would be easier than to make an immense breach in it by one torpedo, and to send another through the breach immediately afterwards, always assuming, of course, that the Whitehead torpedo can do the great things it is said to be capable of performing. The Admiralty took the precaution of ordering the experiment to be carried out in tolerably shallow water, so that it will be possible to use divers should the crinoline prove not quite worthy of the reliance placed on it by the authorities.