

Although Lieut. Sifton has laid considerable stress on the value of the system at Saumur, yet I am sure he will readily admit that high jumping forms a very small part of the individual, as opposed to the collective, training of either man or horse.

The lecturer makes a good point when he emphasizes the fact that the nature in which it is intended to employ the mounted branch of the service must govern the system of training.

He tells us that the Germans and French both believe in shock tactics and train their cavalry accordingly with this end in view.

In the original draft of his paper he rather infers that the idea of employing shock tactics by large bodies of cavalry is not in favour with the British Cavalry, but this is contrary to the fact, as the many extracts which I will refer to afterwards will show. It is only a question with the British whether greater results cannot oftener be obtained by fire or by a combination of fire and shock action. The Germans are inclining to the British view, whilst the French, although they admit fire action may occasionally be advantageous, do not practice musketry to any extent; however, there is an idea that they may employ cyclists or infantry in carts to give them the benefit of fire support.

So far as training goes, the British system is so thorough that it does not place a cavalry recruit in the ranks under eight months progressive training, by the end of which period he has completed his musketry course, is trained to use his weapons (the lance or sword) at full gallop, and has learnt to ride over fences and to ride all kinds of horses. As soon as he has been placed in the ranks he is given a remount to break and is afforded opportunities for taking his horse out into the country to school him and even to follow hounds.

As regards what the lecturer has said about the British being trained only to negotiate the ordinary hunting fences met with in England, it is a fact that England is more enclosed than any other country in Europe, Italy possibly excepted, and that cavalry which could get across country in England could do so anywhere in Europe.