

powers of a weak man, endowed with hope and lofty courage, are always of greater value to the State than those of a great strong fellow who is discontented and desponding. Employ officers to superintend all large fatigues, and associate them with the men in all their work. Often have I blushed for my profession when I have seen officers sitting down under some shelter reading a book whilst their men were working—or rather supposed to be working. When men see that their officers do not take at interest in what is going on the men soon follow suit."

#### CLEANLINESS.

In war a fertile source of disease is want of cleanliness. With a view of meeting this difficulty bathing parades are held as often as possible. If a camp is stationary, even for a few days, endeavor should be made to provide a washing place for the men where there shall be abundance of water. The men should be encouraged to wash their entire body. It is of the utmost consequence that the feet should be washed frequently. If the camp is near a river, certain precautions are required. Under the direction of the Engineer Department a safe place should be marked out, and bathing only allowed there. If this is not done men may be lost by drowning. At all times certain precautions are necessary regarding bathing. Early morning bathing is best, but if indulged in during the day it ought to be avoided for two hours after a meal, or when the men are very fatigued or in profuse perspiration. A short bath of a few minutes is best; never remain long enough to feel chilly. Unless the greatest care is exercised, vermin are very apt to make their appearance, helped by the inner clothing becoming impregnated with perspiration. As washing clothes is really an art, in many countries the soldier is taught this in the rude fashion he must practice during war. But it is a difficult matter during a campaign, and with care can be dispensed with for a long time. Neither linen nor cotton shirts should be worn while on service; two good grey flannel shirts, if worn day about, are ample for all ranks. When the shirt is taken off it should be shaken well, then well beaten with a stick, stretched out, hung up and exposed to the sun and wind. The same rule applies to trousers and drawers, when the latter are worn. The soldier ought at all times to keep his hair cut short. In the field no man's hair should exceed half an inch in length, and officers should set the example. None except those who have worn their hair after such a fashion can appreciate the luxury it confers on service. No man can have that smart bearing, which is the outward mark of the soldier, who allows his hair to be so long that he can part it. A well-cropped head is the first great step towards cleanliness. The beard or whiskers should be cut close about once a week, for on a campaign a soldier cannot count on the luxury of shaving. Hair is the glory of a woman, but not of man. A little more attention to this matter of hair cutting among our militia battalions would greatly enhance their appearance on parade.

The foot gear of the soldier requires close attention; their boots and their socks must be frequently inspected so as to be certain that they are always in a fit state for marching. If this point is carefully attended to your men will go into action fit for work. The Germans use what is called the "German foot powder" to preserve the feet of their soldiers on the march. For the last three

years it has formed part of the medical stock issued at our brigade camps. My little experience of it is favorable. Another method is to smear the feet with lard. Unless the closest attention is given to the feet, and more especially if the boot does not fit well, corns are apt to form on the sole, necessitating the discharge of the soldier. In my twelve years' connection with the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry I have had many instances of this.

#### DISCIPLINE.

This is the very life blood of an army, and it is on the field of battle that it shows its potency; it is there that the long and apparently tedious drill of the barrack square should show its result. To interfere in any way with this spirit, as it determines the power of a commander over his men in the presence of the enemy, is to blood-poison the army. Therefore, as to-day no army can hope in the presence of an enemy armed with the modern rifle, to carry out a system of manœuvres in which discipline can be maintained with the old facility and under conditions so favorable to it as those of the past, we must approach the subject, says a recent writer, with a caution proportioned to its vital importance. Strange to say, it is from a British scientific author, that a late German authority on war, sums up the essential elements common to the discipline of the past with that of the present, and which it is vital shall not be shaken or impaired. The engrained habit of mutual confidence among all ranks of a regiment, is the factor of its strength and clothes it with incalculable superiority over an armed mob.

When we come to consider what has enabled armies to acquire this engrained habit we are met by some curious experiences. In the first place, the instinctive habit of obedience to a word of command, as coming from one who has the right and the duty to give that command, has to be carried into the very limbs of a man. When cultured men of mature years entered the ranks of the British volunteers, during the early stages of the movement, some very amusing protests appeared in print, as to the dreary monotony of the mechanical contortions which represent the early phases of recruit drill. A certain pity or sympathy was expressed for the poor soldiers, who had to pass such a large portion of their lives in such uninteresting tasks. I believe that I am correct in saying that the complaints of those cultivated persons showed a want of philosophic acuteness, which is entirely absent from the minds of the zealous British volunteer and militiaman of to-day. No one understands better than they do the fact that in the dull, mechanical routine of recruit drill, is laid the foundation of military power. The zealous barrister, who at 35 always found himself turning by mistake to the right when he was ordered to turn to the left, who found it impossible to supple his limbs in the required extension motions, and the physical exercises, unconsciously illustrates the weakness of the most zealous untrained armed man. With the best of wishes his body was so little under the command of his own mind and will, that he could not, much as he wished it, place it at once under the command of anyone else. Much less could he cut out that disturbing element himself, so far as to obey instinctively, and without a certain element of resisting individuality, the commands he received.

Now, the capacity to act together under

the orders of one man can never be dispensed with under any of the conditions of modern war. The instinctive obedience of a rank of soldiers to the order to turn "right about," even when that order sends them back to the ground where shells are bursting and where bullets are raining, has been a power in fighting too great for us to willingly throw it away. Some humorous illustrations of its effect on soldiers, and of the victory-winning power which an even apparently unintelligent submission to this authority of instinct has given to the British army, are met with in all works descriptive of the battles of our country. One or two such, will, however, suffice. During the Indian Mutiny a detachment was holding an advanced post against the attacks of a vastly superior force. The enemy gradually enveloped the post and threatened to cut off the retreat of its defenders; but the defence was maintained unshaken. At last an Irishman, with more military instincts, perhaps, than the rest, exclaimed, "Oh, Captain, Captain, we're surrounded!" The Captain's reply came sharp and stern, "What the devil is that to you, sir? Look to your front!" And the defence was continued, and success was the result. On another occasion during the same mutiny, at Lucknow, a sentry holding an important post was urged to retire by a retreating party, hotly pursued by the rebels. His reply was, "My name is Thomas Atkins, of the 55th, and I will not leave my post till properly relieved." And he sealed his words with his life. Readers of Napier's History of the Peninsular War will doubtless recall his vivid picture of the assault of Badajoz, when the troops, unable to advance and yet scorning to retire, remained in the ditches, where they were shot down by the garrison.

In proportion as men understand war they value this effect of discipline, and would be unwilling even to diminish at a given moment actual loss of life, if that diminution was secured by any sacrifice of this power. An old English battalion trained to the absolute perfection of such mechanical obedience was a splendid fighting instrument. No training, however perfect, to take advantage of ground, to seek cover, to glide on to the weak points of an enemy, will compensate, even in these days, a deficiency in that habit of utter self abnegation, of entire subordination to the one purpose of united action under assigned orders. Under the modern conditions of war, the loss inflicted within a given time by the terrible weapons now in the hands of all armies, is so great that the very formations under which, on a parade ground, the armies of the past prepared to move in actual fighting, under the orders of their commanders, are mechanically as well as morally dissolved. The din of the breech-loader, the hoarse shriek of the shrapnel shell, drowns the voice of the officers. It is not therefore with a light heart, not willingly, not as thinking that a dispersed order of fight is something in itself more powerful, or more advantageous than a rigid formation, in which ordered and orderly movement is easy, in which force can be concentrated, in which the habits of discipline can be more certainly maintained, but dire necessity, that the most experienced soldiers of our day have come to the conclusion that only by preparing armies for fighting in dispersed order, can discipline be maintained at all. The great problem of modern tactics, in so far as it concerns actual fighting, which regulates everything else, is how to maintain the old unity under the new conditions.