

Avoid in this exercise the doubling of the first *g*, so as to say sing-ging for singing, &c.

The teacher should give lists of present participles frequently to be uttered by the pupils with special force on the final *g*.

DRILL IN SCHOOLS.

III.

SALUTING.

Boys should be trained to make a proper soldier's salute in passing any gentleman to whom a mark of respect is due. In passing a lady the salute should be given in a somewhat slower manner, and the hat should be raised slightly.

GENERAL RULE.

Always salute with the hand *furthest from the person* to be saluted, and begin about four paces from him.

Right hand salute.—The right hand must be brought up to the head smartly with a slight, graceful circular motion; the back of the hand should rest against the front of the hat, with the palm to the front, fingers extended. The head should be turned slightly towards the person saluted, except in class or during a general salute, when the head is not to be moved.

THE BALANCE STEP.

A thorough instruction in the balance-step is necessary before proceeding with the marching exercises, the object of it being to teach the free use of the legs, steadiness of the body, and perfect squareness of the shoulders to the front. To obtain these three objects no pains must be spared by the Instructor, who must be careful to prevent the pupils acquiring the habit of drooping or throwing back the shoulders on the movement of the feet. The first practice must be gone through very slowly, and will commence with the left foot in the following manner:—

Caution.—*Balance-step without gaining Ground, commencing with the left foot.*

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| FRONT. | { On the word <i>Front</i> , raise the left foot from the ground by slightly bending the knee, and carry it slowly to the front, straightening the knee as the foot is brought forward, the toes to be turned a little outwards, the sole of the foot to be kept parallel to the ground and about two inches from it, the left heel to be in line with the right toes. |
| REAR. | { When steady, on the word <i>Rear</i> , the left foot will be brought gently back (without a jerk), till the toe is in line with the right heel, the left knee a little bent. The left foot in this position will not be so flat as when in front; the toe will be a little depressed. |
| FRONT.
REAR. | { When steady, the words <i>Front</i> and <i>Rear</i> will be repeated several times, and the motions performed as above described. |
| HALT. | { On the word <i>Halt</i> , which should always be given when the moving foot is in rear, that foot will be brought to the ground in line with the other. |

The instructor will afterwards make the pupil balance upon the left foot, carrying the right foot forward and backward.

Accustoming a pupil to stand on one leg and swing the other backward and forward without constraint, is an excellent practice.

2. Gaining Ground, First Practice.

Caution.—*Balance-step, gaining Ground by the word Forward.*

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| FRONT. | { On the word <i>Front</i> , the left foot will be carried to the front, as described in the balance-step without gaining ground. |
| FORWARD. | { As soon as the boys are steady in the above position, the word <i>Forward</i> will be given, on which the left foot will be brought to the ground at a distance of one pace from heel to heel, toes turned out at an angle of 30 degrees, and the right foot will immediately be raised, and held extended to the rear, the knee slightly bent. Great care must be taken that the knees are kept perfectly straight as long as both feet are touching the ground; that the toes remain throughout at the proper angles, that the body accompanies the leg, and that the inside of the heel is placed on the imaginary |

straight line that passes through the points on which the pupil is marching; that the body remains straight, but inclining forward; that the head is erect, and turned neither to the right nor left.

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| FRONT. | { On the word <i>Front</i> , the right foot will be brought forward, and so on. |
| HALT. | { On the word <i>Halt</i> , which should always be given when the moving foot is to the front, that foot will complete its pace, and the rear foot will be brought up in line with it. |

3. Gaining Ground, Second Practice.

Caution.—*Balance-step, gaining Ground on the word Front.*

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| FRONT. | { On the word <i>Front</i> , the pupil will take a full pace slowly with his left foot; raise his right foot and carry it to the front, heel in line with the left toe, foot turned out at an angle of 30 degrees; and then pause till the word <i>Front</i> is repeated, on which the right foot will be brought to the ground a pace to the front, and the left immediately brought forward, and so on. |
| FRONT. | { On the word <i>Front</i> , the pupil will take a full pace slowly with his left foot; raise his right foot and carry it to the front, heel in line with the left toe, foot turned out at an angle of 30 degrees; and then pause till the word <i>Front</i> is repeated, on which the right foot will be brought to the ground a pace to the front, and the left immediately brought forward, and so on. |
| HALT. | { On the word <i>Halt</i> , which should always be given when the moving foot is to the front, that foot will complete its pace, and the rear foot will be brought up in line with it. |

When the squad becomes steady in the practice, the word *Front* must be given quicker until the cadence of the slow march is attained, of which the squad must be informed, and they must continue to move on in slow time. They must then be halted as in the second practice above, and may be turned about, and directed to continue the slow march, on the command *Slow March* being given. The body must be kept well forward, and on no account must leaning back or swinging be allowed. The hands and arms must be kept steady at the sides, but must not be allowed to cling to the thighs, or partake in the slightest degree of the movements of the leg, neither should they be allowed to vibrate. The body must be kept erect, the eyes looking straight to the front, and each boy be taught in marching to take up a straight line to his front by fixing his eyes on some object which is in a line with the centre of his body, such as a stone, a tuft of grass, a mark on a wall, or some casual object.

MARKING TIME AND MARCHING.

General Rules.—1. "Always step off with the LEFT foot first."

If any one begins with the right foot, say "halt," and begin again.

2. The body must be straight but almost imperceptibly inclining forward, head erect but not thrown back, eyes straight to front, hands and arms steady by side, and on no account must swing to and fro, or partake of the movements of the thigh. The movements must be done entirely by the legs, and the bodies must not be swayed from side to side, nor must the feet be thrust out laterally—evils which are easily contracted in a crowded school-room. Explain that the movements of the legs are exactly as in common walking. Show a boy that in walking the first natural movement is to bend the knee. Do not allow the knees to be bent too much—not high up like a full-actioned horse, but moderately, so as to carry the sole of the foot about three inches from the ground. The foot must be planted on the ground gently so as not to shake the body, and the toe not pointed upwards.

3. In slow marching, pupils should take 75 steps in a minute, in quick marching 116, and in double marching 165. Boys have always a tendency to step too fast.

4. The length of a soldier's pace is 30 inches in slow and quick time, and 38 inches in double marching. No exact rule can be laid down for boys. The teacher should impress on them that they should, in marching, step a full ordinary step, without straining.

5. When boys march side by side they are said to be "in line," but when, by giving the command *Right (or Left) Turn*, they are brought one behind another, it is called "File Marching." During the earlier stages of the drill the teacher is recommended to use the latter method mainly, as the pupils can be seen and their errors corrected more readily.

6. Allow no looking down at the feet in any kind of marching.