

BROKEN RETURN SPRING.

An easily carried substitute, if the above fails and no spare parts are available, can be quickly made as follows:—

Take a piece of indiarubber, such as is used for trench catapults, &c., about nine or ten inches long, and from half-an-inch to five-eighths of an inch diameter. Bind thread (preferably waxed) tightly round each end to get a good hold of the elastic. On top of these bindings bind on a strong cord or tape loop to each end. The total length over all, including loops, being about twelve inches.

One of these loops can be slipped over the cocking-handle, and the other loop attached with strong string or cord either to the tripod, or, if no support is used, then to a piece of cord going round the radiator casing in front of the foresight (with its protecting wings mounted on the clamp ring) and the gas regulator.

With care in the adjustment, this elastic may be made to temporarily perform the functions of the return spring and pinion, thus enabling the gun to continue firing automatically.

CARTRIDGE GUIDE SPRING.

In the later pattern of cartridge guide springs, a hinged portion is actuated by a small flat spring, housed behind it, and pressing it outwards. Both the hinge and the bearing surface on which this spring works must be kept well oiled, the same as all other working parts of the gun.