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CORRESPONDENCE.

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Comment and Criticism.

THE competitive examinations in writing of candidates for cadetship in the Royal Military College, at Kingston, will begin on the 14th June at the headquarters of each military district in which candidates reside, and will continue four days. It is understood that the batch now going up for this examination is larger than any that has preceded it, thus showing that the college is gaining in strength, and that the nature of the education is being appreciated throughout the Dominion.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *St. John Globe* contends that the headquarters of A Company, Infantry School Corps, should be removed from Fredericton to St. John, in consequence of the unsanitary condition of the former place, as evidenced by the amounts severally expended by the three companies for medicine during the last fiscal year. While C company's medicine bill was \$22.15, that of B company was \$251.73, and A company rolled up the alarming total of \$789.40, or nearly eight dollars for each man in the corps; certainly there seems to be some ground for the assumption that Fredericton is an unhealthy place.

THE clasps for the actions in the 1885 campaign have arrived from England and are being distributed. They are of the usual size and pattern, and bear the word "Saskatchewan" in burnished plain Roman letters on a frosted ground, surrounded by a border consisting of a double line, plain, burnished.

WORD has been received from Cairo that, in common with the Imperial troops, the Canadian contingent of Nile voyageurs are to receive the Khedive's bronze star in addition to the Egyptian medal with which they have already been decorated. It is expected that the stars will be sent out in the course of three or four months' time.

LAST week we gave one remark of the major-general commanding respecting the camps. Sir Fred goes on to say: "It must be remembered that now-a-days a soldier who is able to hit anything standing or moving at a fair distance, say up to 500 yards, is worth at least a dozen of the ordinary soldier. Therefore, no effort should be spared to make men good, reliable shots up to 500 yards. Most of the real fighting is done at short, not long ranges. I may remark here that Lt.-Col. Graveley, 40th Batt., who was acting musketry instructor at the Kingston camp, and Lieut. Milloy, 19th Regt., who was acting at Niagara, were indefatigable in their attempts to carry out the course, uphill work as it was." On this paragraph we would venture a suggestion. Let the government increase the number of rounds fired at this year's camps to thirty—it would not cost more than \$4,000 to do so—and let each battalion devote a little more time to musketry instruction. Also let one officer per battalion be specially detailed as musketry instructor, let him see that *every man* in the battalion fires, and that before he fires he has been taught at least how to load and aim a rifle. Finally, let it be his special duty to report any man he finds physically unfit to fire, and let the government refuse to issue any pay to any such men, and a great step in advance will have been achieved.

THE pith of this year's regulations for the annual drill of the militia is contained in the paragraph, under the head of camps, which provides that, "the principal care will be paid, first, to instruction in rifle practice, second, to instruction of officers and men in extended order for skirmishing as well as for attack formation in accordance with the regulations laid down in Field Exercises of 1884, in parts I, II and III. Little or no time will be given to marching past, which is purely a parade movement and should be practised and learnt before or after the assembly of the camp." Now will officers take the hint and grind up their rifle exercises and extended order drill before going into camp, or will they let things slide, and put in the twelve days in a successful effort to do as little as possible at each parade, and leave camp as profoundly ignorant of modern drill as they entered it?

A RUMOR reaches us that an officer is to be taken from the active force and placed in command of one of the permanent corps. We can scarcely credit it. Such an action would be too short sighted a policy to be possible. General Middleton has again and again pointed out the slow promotion in the permanent force, and if a vacancy in a command has arisen, common sense and justice alike indicate that it should be utilized to give some of that promotion so sorely needed. The qualifications of the non-permanent officer interested do not enter into the question at all, he may be eminently fitted for the position, but the broad