

system ought to be changed; skirmishing ought to form a part of every inspection, and if colonels cannot handle their men in open formations they should take fresh courses in our infantry schools.

MR. H. C. BLISS, the author of "Wing and Glass Ball Shooting with a Rifle," has written to us respecting the adaptability of that kind of shooting for military purposes, and he certainly would, if he had his way, make a revolution in the present style of things. We will let our readers judge his views for themselves. He says:—"In regard to teaching troops to shoot at moving objects it has long been a hobby of mine that the troops should be taught this very thing. It certainly seems plain to me that twelve men properly trained at this kind of work would easily whip an ordinary company. In the ordinary target practice a man will stand up and fix his gun, and change his position and finally take aim. After a good long sight he fires, and may or may not hit somewhere near the bull's eye. If the time ever comes when that same man has to shoot for his life, and is looking down the barrel of some one else's gun, how much time does he spend in taking aim? You may talk till doomsday about the steadiness of the troops, but the average citizen in soldier clothes is going to pull the trigger about as soon as an all-wise Providence will let him. If he has been taught to shoot quick, and has confidence in himself, and brings the gun to the proper place from force of habit, he will do average good work even under such circumstances. And how many times are there when the first few rounds have decided the day? It seems very strange to me that my own government does not give the subject mere attention. Sometimes I feel tempted to go at the matter direct and try to arouse an interest, but it is doubtful if a civilian would have much influence."

WHY mounted officers of infantry battalions do not avail themselves of the excellent course of instruction in riding offered by the Quebec Cavalry School is indeed a conundrum. The course of equitation, which may be begun at any period of the year, consists of one month's instruction, during which the candidate is inducted into all the mysteries of the science, beginning on the numnah and stripped saddle, and gradually working up to the use of the stirrups and manege work generally, the climax being reached in the last week, when, with the confidence which three weeks' steady work has given him, he concludes each morning's ride with a series of jumps over hurdles and ditches. Officers joining for this course have the benefit of the services of two instructors who were considered amongst the most efficient in Her Majesty's service, and with due attention at drill, a determination to learn, and a fair modicum of British pluck, there is no reason why a perfectly green rider should not make a decent appearance mounted at the end of the month. The number of infantry officers taking advantage of this school is as small in proportion to the number on the Militia List as is the number who can make a respectable appearance on a horse on inspection day is to that of those who display a wild desire to embrace their horse's necks. The day should be past, so far as the militia of Canada is concerned, when the comparison of a remarkably bad rider to the "blawsted hadjutant of a hinfantry regiment" can be made with any show of truth. A mounted officer who cannot ride, notwithstanding all his efficiency otherwise, is woefully inefficient; as in addition to his being unable to give commands to his regiment or perform the duties pertaining to his rank he crawls down upon his devoted head and the whole service the ridicule of the multitude. The *feu de joie* is a signal at all reviews for a general demoralization of infantry colonels, majors and adjutants, and the succeeding moments are fraught with danger to life and limb. There is no valid excuse for this state of affairs in the infantry as there are few officers who are unable to manage their affairs so as to permit them to take a month with the cavalry, and the peace of mind produced in their

souls by the knowledge that they could ride when called on to do so would amply repay them for the loss of epidermis and balance which usually overtake the beginner.

Personals.

Captain Whitla, of the 90th, has obtained three months' leave of absence and is now in England.

General Sir Fred. Middleton has promised to lecture on outposts this evening to all the officers of the Ottawa corps.

Lieut.-Col. Oswald, M.G.A., was in town on Tuesday, and had some intention of taking a trip westward to the Pacific coast.

Capt. Evans has returned to town from a cavalry course at Quebec. He has succeeded in passing with very high marks for a first-class certificate, and is full of his experiences—if he does walk a little stiff.

Major Jarvis, who has just resigned the command of the Winnipeg field battery had been connected with it since 1877, and in command of it since 1883, when the late Col. Kennedy left it on the organization of the 90th Rifles. Major Jarvis led the battery during the period of active service in the North-West last year, and endeared himself to all, both officers and men, who came in contact with him. The active militia loses in him a most valuable officer.

Major L. W. Coutlee, who succeeds him in the command is an old Ottawa boy, and is still kindly remembered here, and warmly greeted on his occasional visits to the old homestead. He has been connected with the militia since 1866, having joined the County of Ottawa provisional battalion during the first Fenian raid, and served successively in the Victoria Rifles, Prince of Wales' Rifles, the Ottawa brigade of garrison artillery and the Ottawa field battery, having held a commission as first lieutenant in the garrison artillery (1876) and being transferred to the field battery in 1877, attaining the rank of captain in May, 1883. After his removal to Winnipeg he was transferred to the field battery here in May, 1884, with the rank of captain. He accompanied his corps to the front and proved himself a most gallant and popular officer. Major Jarvis' profession having called him away from the city very frequently, the command of the battery devolved on Capt. Coutlee, and it is largely due to his endeavors that it is in so efficient a condition, the class of men enlisted in it being remarkably high. No doubt it will continue to maintain its high standard under its present commanding officer.

Capt. Charles Constantine, late chief of the Manitoba provincial police, has received official notification of his appointment as inspector in the North-West mounted police, and will leave Winnipeg for the North-West in a few days. Capt. Constantine went to Manitoba as a color-sergeant in the second battalion of militia organized for Wolseley's expedition of 1870, and was afterwards sergt-major of the regiment. After a service of about 16 months, he was commissioned, and acted as adjutant of the regiment for some time, leaving the force on its reduction in 1874. He was then appointed deputy sheriff and continued in that position till 1880, when he was appointed to the post he has just vacated. Last year during the rebellion Capt. Constantine joined the Winnipeg light infantry as adjutant, and served through the campaign in General Strange's column. He was inspector of licenses for the province in 1883, and chairman of the board of license commissioners in 1884. He was born at Bradford, Yorkshire, England, coming to Canada in 1854, and was educated at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, P. Q., near which place his father was a clergyman. The *Manitoban* says that Capt. Constantine has been a most efficient public official in Manitoba, that there is no doubt he will prove equally satisfactory in his new sphere, and that the government could not have made a better appointment. We personally know him to be a thorough soldier, and in every way fitted for his new duties.

Contents of our Contemporaries.

Colburn's Magazine for November has an article by Col. Knollys on the mobilization of the first army corps; part of E. Garel's investigation into England's readiness to go to war, and an account of the last invasion of England, in 1745, besides an exhaustive essay advocating swimming as a military and naval exercise, a short account of a curious duel, and the usual notes.

The *Rifle* for November is an exceedingly good number. It opens with a portrait and sketch of Private Milan W. Bull, who won the military championship of the United States at Creedmoor this year; gives an account of some remarkable performances of Capt. Ira Paine with the revolver, and an American spectator gives his impressions of Wimbledon. A valuable essay on the eye in its relation to the rifle we reprint in this issue. *Franc tireur's* weekly budget from England is as