

a total of twelve years service. The reserves were, as far as I could understand, called out for three months annual training for the first reserve, and three weeks annual training for the second reserve.

I found it, however, rather difficult to understand this matter of the calling up of the reserves, and it did not seem to me that the whole number of the reserves was uniformly and regularly called up for training; as something was said, by the officer explaining the matter to me, to the effect of the balance of men beyond the peace establishment of the battalions not being wanted in time of peace. What was, however, very evident was that the authorities knew just where to lay their hands on every man at a moment's notice. When we got out on the Barrack Square there were some companies of newly called up reservists being exercised at Battalion drill. They were the same that I had noticed on my arrival and they were still drilling away gaily. I was, however, glad to notice for their sakes that the rain had now dwindled away to a slight mist. Their drill interested me, but the gallant Colonel said it was not very good and offered to turn out his whole regiment for me. Finding, however, that the whole three battalions had already done two hours drill that morning I declined his kind offer although with regret. For if the reserve soldiers were not drilling well, I should have liked to have seen what "well" was, from Colonel Kimura's point of view.

The system of drill being practised by the little Japanese soldiers, while perfectly intelligible to me, was not any that I never seen before. I was struck by the extreme mobility of the men on any change of position or alignment. They seemed to get into their new places like lightning. Upon enquiring if it was a German system of drill that was being followed, Colonel Kimura informed me that it was based on German drill but tempered with purely Japanese modifications. Whatever it was it was distinctly good, and good also seemed the magazine rifle which the soldiers carried. This rifle, which was sighted up to a great distance, was a purely Japanese weapon invented and constructed in Japan.

A visit to the Barracks of the 1st Battalion shewed them to be constructed on the best European system and their interior economy to be carried out on purely European lines. According to the method pursued when we