

Extracts from the Proceedings of the "Old Soldiers'" Society.

A "tumulus" or mound of earth, in which the coffins of the ancients were buried, has recently been dug out, and certain interesting documents have been discovered therein. They were evidently regarded as very precious, for they were enclosed in stone boxes, and were preserved in wax. A bottle of this wax was found near a coffin, and has been analysed. It was found to contain a mixture of elbow-grease and eye-wash; further, it was labelled with the letters "B.S.," but of the significance of this the writer can form no opinion.

In spite of this preservative, however, many parts of the documents were badly defaced, the only legible parts being copied below:—

"... ye stane in ye right hande, and carrye it up to the right side, gripping it firmly at ye point of balance. Turn ye boddie half right, and throw back ye right shoulder, keeping ye right elbow bent. Extende ye left arm to its fulle extente. . . .

. . . . it is used to punish any objecte of ye anger, such as a wife or doggie, in disfavour, who is not worthy of ye thrashing or to put it over ye adversarie whome one cannot thrash."

The text continues:—

" Rules for ye THROWE.

1. Choose a large stane.
2. Choose a small enemy.
3. Take ye sicksokekloke ayme.
4. Runne like helle."

We have been unable up to now to explain the word "sicksokeklok."

Finally, there is the following experiment recorded, and it is evident that the person who made the tests was some noble Prince among his fellows.

"Ye experiments carried out by us recentlie hav beene such as to prove that wen ye object aimed at is moving a direct ayme is almost useless. In our commodious cave we hav had several days of great plesurie testing juste exactly how much should be allowed for this; because that we were greatly interested in ye matter, oftentimes having suffered grave annoyance at finding an unrulie wife or servante nimble at avoiding ye reprisal by running hard and thus frustrating our aime.

" YE METHODE.

"Our methode was to have ye walles of ye cave marked off into squares, and a Batmanne, who, as ye mark of great favour was permitted to helpe us in our researche, was desired to walke and to runne in front, yea, and in ye direction of ye walle. Some fifteen paces afar off, we had a supplye of stanes, large stanes, which was replenished as necessaire from Ye Dumpe in rear by our excellent 'Q' staffe.

"This staffe would have been greatly and justely rewarded for his untiring zeal and greate ability, but for that he had ye misfortune to lose his life during ye experiments. Ye Batmanne having commenced to walke or runne, we threw a stane at him with much force, and he was to

stoppe when ye stane had reached ye walle or had hit him. This he did well, especiallie in ye seconde case. We were thus able to see exactly where ye ayme should hav been, and soon we became so expert that we used up all our available staffe of batmannes."

Here the papers, which are legible, end, and we glance at what follows with regret that time should have effaced so much of so valuable a contribution to scientific research. It is agreed by a majority in the society that the document refers to the throwing of stones. The word "Batmanne," is also unfamiliar to the writer, who will welcome any suggestions as to its meaning. It is a man, and possibly one who works, though the writer has no authority for saying this, and is merely hazarding a guess. V. B.



AN UNREASONABLE REQUEST.

Sniper to Instructing Officer:—"Please, sir, our [adjutant told me to ask you as 'ow if yer could put a telescopic rifle on to my sight."

YUKON CARRIER.

A demonstration in the use of the Tump Line and the Armstrong Carrier took place during the Seventh Course. A stiff test was laid out through trenches and shell holes for a distance of a mile. Those present were very favourably impressed with the utility and efficiency of these methods of carrying weights. An interesting fact about the demonstration was that the advantages of the Armstrong Carrier were explained by the inventor, Captain Armstrong, the Sniping Instructor of the Corps School. Among those present were:—General Lewis Jones, D.S.O., Brigadier-General H. W. Studd, D.S.O., Major H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught, Major W. B. F. Raynor, D.S.O., Major F. G. Chalmers, M.C., Captain the Master of Sinclair, Captain W. M. Beckwith, Captain Archibald, Y.M.C.A.