at lower grade, while a superior arm could be furnished to the upper classes in large Public Schools and Collegiate Institutes, so that the boys might be exercised in shooting at the target. If the boys of every generation were thus trained the awkward country lout, who forms such a distinguished feature of our country batallions in the summer camps, would be drilled out of existence. Teach the boys and they will never forget. When, in after life, they are called from the desk and the plough to the parade and the camp, a few days will do more to drill them into soldiers than as many weeks, or indeed months, can do if that early instruction is neglected.

In conclusion, whatever method may be adopted to improve our national guard, we should be fully alive to the fact that we must in peace prepare for war; and that we cannot expect to enjoy our possession of half a continent unless we are ready to defend it.

Gleanings.

A commission has been appointed by the German Emperor to elaborate simplified regulations for the drill of the Field Artillery, and their decisions will be carried into effect on April 1.

The Omaha World, referring to the revised manual for small arms practice soon to be issued, says: "There is a belief in army circles that men who cannot shoot should be, and will be, dismissed from the service, and this is what carries consternation into the ranks of such as have hitherto been 'excused' from rifle practice at Fort Omaha and elsewhere."

Vice-Admiral Watson, the newly-appointed commander in-chief on the North American Station, left England on the 5th of January to hoist his flag on board the Bellerophon, vice Admiral Lyons, who goes home on promotion. Mr. Edward Robinson, secretary, and Flag Lieutenant Troubridge accompanied Admiral Watson in the Guion steamer Nevada.

Major C. A. Wikoff, U.S.A., of Gen. Gibbon's Staff, in a recent report, earnestly advocates that when the improved carbine is adopted; the trooper use it exclusively, in practice on the range, and that separate competitions be had for the cavalry. The high degree of proficiency attained by the cavalry in the use of Army rifle, indicates that a relatively equal proficiency could be attained, if the carbine alone was used in their rifle practice.

A series of experiments in connection with the proposed new rifle is taking place at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield. The still open question of the adoption of nickel or copper bullets is the subject of experiment. To test the effect of the former on bones, a skeleton of a horse was lately placed in the range, and fired into with nickel bullets. The experiment did not altogether satisfy the experimenters, as the bullets cleanly pierced instead of shattering the bones.

The Avenir Militaire devotes an article to the tactical changes that may be induced by the introduction of smokeless powder. Admitting that the question is now largely open to conjecture, it remarks that the value of artillery will be greatly increased, if—there being no cloud of smoke before the gun—the objective remains visible, and men can fire rapidly and aim well. Our contemporary also predicts that surprise tactics will play a much larger part than hitherto.

No scene [at Victoria Hall] was ever more brilliant or more enchanting than the one presented on Friday evening last, in the form of a grand military ball, giving by the officers of the 40th "Northumberland" Battalion at regimental headquarters. * * * The patrons were: Col. Rogers, Col. Graveley, Major Guillet, Capt. Snelgrove, Capt. Dennis, Lieut. Bouverie and Lieut. Dumble, Col. Rodgers, the commandent, and Capt, Dennis, the hon. secretary, were indefatigable in their efforts to make theball a success. The supper was the result of Mrs. Dennis' energy.—Cobourg World, 12th January.

The magazine rifle is about to be introduced in the Turkish Army. the Government having given large orders for the weapon to the Oberndorf Small Arms Factory in Germany. The pattern adopted is that of the German magazine rifle, with a few trifling changes; but the calibre will be a smaller one—only 9.5 millimetres (0.36 in.). The trials with the weapon are reported as satisfactory, the trajectory at about 450 yds. rising scarcely above a man's height. At a distance of 1,740 yds. the projectile weighing 284 gr. (a little over ½ oz.), and consisting of an alloy of lead and tin, with a charge of 691/2 gr. of Rottwell powder, penetrates nearly 6 in. of wood, and at a distance of 2,842 yds, it enters dry pine wood to a depth of 2 in.

General Sir F. Fitzwygram, late Inspector-General of Cavalry, speaking at a Volunteer prize distribution at Gosport on Wednesday night. commented somewhat sharply on the system of musketry instruction in' the British Army. He said that no doubt the firing of the Infantry was more deadly now than in former years, but it must be obvious that the rifle had never produced those great effects in war which were originally anticipated of it. If they turned to any of our recent engagements, and compared the expenditure of ammunition, with the number of killed and wounded, they would be surprised to find how little effective had been the destructive powes of the rifle. 'To his mind the fault lay in the system, which was wholly and radically wrong. The men were taught to shoot under conditions which could not possibly occur in war. With regard to national defence, he was not one of those who believed in war scares. His belief was that in this country there were men in arms sufficient for every possible necessity, but more thorough training and organization were absolutely essential in the interests of efficiency.

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