SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MILITARY TRAINING OF A COMPANY OF INFANTRY

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BY

LIEUT. HARRY J. CRAUFURD

REGIMENTAL-ADJUTANT GRENADIER GUARDS

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1884

PREFACE.

WHEN writing the following suggestions for the military training of a company, the author hoped to produce a scheme of instruction that might be of use to his brother officers in the Regiment.

He has since been advised to give his work wider publication.

In doing so, he must explain that his object has been to suggest the general outline only of such a scheme, and to avoid entering into details which officers will naturally prefer to deal with in their own way.

The repetition of matter already contained in the authorised text-books has as far as possible been avoided.

There are portions of the suggested instruction which may with advantage be omitted in the case

of old soldiers who have been previously trained; and there are portions which will have to be modified when good ground and ample materials are not available.

The undermentioned works, among others, have been consulted, and can be recommended as valuable guides on the subject of Military Training.

GRENADIER GUARDS, ORDERLY ROOM.
HORSE GUARDS:
January 29, 1884.

WORKS CONSULTED.

'Projet d'instruction tactique de la compagnie d'infanterie,'—Borreil.

'Etude sur les formations de combat de l'infanterie,'—Brialmont.

'Fire Tactics of the German Army,' translated from the 'Revue militaire de l'étranger,' No. 534 of September 1881.

'Instruction pratique de la compagnie d'infanterie,' par un officier supérieur du 4me Corps.

The Report of the Commission assembled by the War Minister in Paris to revise the French Infantry Field Exercises.

'Instruction de la compagnie pour le combat moderne,' a French translation of a German book by Captain Weil.

'Instruction in Outpost Duty,' by Major-General W. Earle, C.B. C S.I.

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THE

MILITARY TRAINING

OF A

COMPANY OF INFANTRY.

ATTACK AND DEFENCE.

Elementary Instruction.

As the duties of a soldier when actually engaged with the enemy are those which it is the most essential for him to know well, and as all other military operations only hinge on the all-important one of fighting, it is thought that the fighting formations and duties in attack and defence should first be taught to the company, and that outpost duty, duties in camp, advanced and rear guards, field engineering, &c., &c., should be left till later.

The subject should be begun at the very beginning, and carried through progressively stage by stage, the more complex operations succeeding the

simpler ones, so that at the end of this branch of instruction the men may have acquired a thorough and clear understanding of the principles which should guide them in action.

Unless a methodical and progressive system of instruction is followed in this, as in all subjects, the men will not be able to grasp the cause and reason of what they are taught, and without a clear understanding of the subject they cannot acquire the interest in it which, it is believed, would otherwise be the case.

An appeal to a soldier's intelligence generally meets with a grateful response: it is often surprising to see what an interest the men will take in a professional subject which they understand, and which they can see is practical and to the point.

It is thought advisable to reduce blackboard lecturing to a minimum. There are certainly portions of the instruction which can only be imparted in the form of a lecture indoors, but, weather permitting, a great deal of the theory can be explained to the men during short pauses in the practice, and it is believed that such a system of instruction will answer best. Theory and practice, well combined, will illustrate and explain each other in such a manner as to convey a clear idea of the subject to the lowest intelligence.

Bearing in mind these principles, let us sketch