Her Majesty signs the Visitors Book.

EDITORIAL

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE R.A.M.C.

As most of our readers will be aware 1973 was the 75th Anniversary of the formation of our Corps in 1898.

To commemorate the occasion a special Philatelic Cover was issued on 23 June 1973 and over £300 was raised for Corps Funds as the result.

In July our Colonel-in-Chief honoured us by attending the Corps “At Home” at Millbank held in this our Anniversary Year.

Full reports on the above events were published in the Magazine, but for those who may have missed them we have pleasure in publishing two illustrations on the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief on the opposite page. The Commemorative Philatelic Cover was illustrated in the April issue of the Journal and Magazine.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MORRISON, J.P. (1840-1919)

This issue of the Journal contains the first instalment of the Autobiography of Captain William Morrison, J.P.

A year or two ago during the course of a long established correspondence with Brigadier W. K. Morrison, D.S.O. (Retd.) the latter mentioned the Autobiography of his father (William Morrison). We were privileged to read extracts and at once realised that here was an almost unique record of life in Victoria’s Army as seen by an other rank. Further, that as the author was a man of high intelligence and ability (so that his rise to commissioned rank was predictable) the events of his life were most vividly and shrewdly recorded. We were able to convince Brigadier Morrison of the value of his father’s autobiography and with typical generosity and industry he not only granted us permission to publish but furnished us with a copy of the original MSS typed by his own hand. This is now in the Historical Library of the R.A.M.C.

We feel certain that our readers will share our pleasure in this Autobiography not only because of the light it sheds on the social and moral standards of a vanished age, but of the way our hero manages to vanquish the tyrants whom he encounters. The appeal of David against Goliath, of the “little un” against the “big un” is eternal. If our hero does on occasion exult in his triumph who can grudge him his satisfaction—especially as most of his victories were won by his own efforts. What supplied the guiding light throughout his life and sustained him in the face of oppression was his deep religious faith—indeed we at times forgot that his life was two centuries distant from our Civil Wars and felt we were reading the pages of an Old Ironside.

When we came to the end of the Autobiography and put it down we did so with the wish that we could have claimed descent from the author—surely the most genuine tribute any author can levy and one we feel will be paid to him by other readers.