Echoes from the Past.

THE SECOND BEARER COMPANY.

By COLONEL W. JOHNSTON, C.B., M.D.
(Retired, Army Medical Staff).

In the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps for May (vol. xvi., p. 563) there was published the report on the organization and working of the First Bearer Company employed in the British service, and at p. 131 of the Corps News, published the same month, will be found an obituary notice of Lieut.-Colonel James Hector, to whose knowledge and zeal the country was indebted for the organization and training of this improvised Bearer Company. As mentioned in that notice, Colonel Stanley, then Secretary of State for War, said in the House of Commons that the employment of this Bearer Company was "a marked feature in field medical organization," and in truth it indicated an epoch in Army medical evolution.

The first fully equipped and trained Bearer Company to leave these shores was sent to South Africa in 1881, and as this event marks another step in the evolution of the Army Medical Service, it is believed that the following account of its proceedings may usefully be put on record, as although its services were not required in action, yet in reading the report glimpses are obtained of the Service which after the lapse of thirty years will seem extraordinary to many officers now serving under greatly altered conditions. The Report is printed from a copy of the original document which was forwarded to the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, who acknowledged its receipt in War Office letter No. 4823/7/334 of February 6, 1882. As is obvious, the footnotes, with the exception of Nos. 2 and 21, have been added for the present publication.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BEARER COMPANY, ARMY HOSPITAL CORPS, SENT TO NATAL DURING THE TRANSVAAL WAR OF 1880-81, BY SURGEON MAJOR WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M.D., COMMANDING THE COMPANY.

Formation of the Company.—On the outbreak of hostilities with the Transvaal Boers, the Government determined to send a Bearer Company to the seat of war, and a company was mobilized consisting of eight officers of the Medical Department, three lieutenants of

1 The writer of this paper.
orderlies, one serjeant-major, four staff-serjeants, three serjeants, thirteen corporals, two buglers, and 118 privates of the Army Hospital Corps; with one warrant officer, two serjeants, five corporals, and twelve privates of the Army Service Corps.

**Equipment.**—One half company was furnished with mountain equipment and the other with wheeled transport, according to the scale laid down in the *Army Medical Regulations, 1878*. The transport animals were not provided at home, as from motives of economy it was determined to trust to the local supply on arrival of the bearer company in Natal.

**Personnel.**—The regulation complement of men of the Army Service Corps was also not furnished, as it was thought advisable to employ coloured drivers for the mule transport in South Africa instead of soldiers. Of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Army Service Corps, four were artificers.

The officers and men of the Army Hospital Corps were brought from various stations, and the company was formed at Aldershot under the superintendence of Surgeon Major Sandford Moore, M.B., commanding the Depot Army Hospital Corps.

**Arms.**—The staff-serjeants were furnished with revolvers, whilst the serjeants and rank and file were equipped with Martini-Henry carbines.

**Embarkation.**—The Bearer Company, having been inspected by the Principal Medical Officer, Surgeon General Stanhope Hunter Fasson on January 24, 1881, on the following day was inspected by General Sir Daniel Lysons, K.C.B., commanding the Aldershot district, and thereafter proceeding by rail to Southampton, embarked the same day on board the Royal Mail steamer "Danube," for passage to Durban.

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2 On arrival at Natal it was found this was not likely to be required, and animals were supplied only for wheeled transport.

3 Now Lieutenant-Colonel, retired, Army Medical Staff, author of *Manual of Exercises for training Stretcher-Bearers and Bearer Companies*, first published in 1877. This was adopted as an official manual and published by Authority, War Office, Horse Guards, February, 1878. It has appeared with little modification in successive editions of the *Manual for the Medical Staff Corps* and *Manual for the Royal Army Medical Corps*, and is now incorporated in Part II. *Royal Army Medical Corps Training, 1908*. It is impossible to estimate how much the Army is indebted to this pioneer of Army Medical reform, and how much it has lost by the calamity of blindness which befell him, necessitating his too early retirement from the Service, for which he had done so much.

4 Died at Aldershot, March 11, 1882.


Command on Board Ship.—There were no other troops on board the "Danube," but Captain and Brevet-Major Donald George Anderson, 58th Foot, was sent by the Horse Guards in command of the troops on board.

It is proper to mention that this officer left every detail of discipline and interior economy to the Officer Commanding the Bearer Company, by whom all orders were issued, and Major Anderson in no way interfered in these matters, but contented himself by notifying at the conclusion of the voyage his sense of the excellent behaviour of the Bearer Company throughout the voyage.

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6 Afterwards Surgeon Major, Medical Staff. Died October 1, 1889, when holding the appointment of Staff Officer, Medical Staff Corps. Designer of the regulation field stretcher known by his name, approved in List of Changes in War Material, dated 1 September, 1882. The essential improvements in this stretcher were a very much better pattern of traverse to keep the poles apart the required distance when the stretcher was "prepared," and the substitution of four rackets carrying three-inch wooden (afterwards gun-metal) rollers for the flimsy legs with very small rollers or casters of the older pattern. This stretcher continued to be the regulation pattern until June 1, 1906, when the List of Changes, &c., of that date announced a new stretcher fitted with steel U-shaped runners instead of rollers.

7 Afterwards Surgeon, Medical Staff, died at Handak, Soudan, April 18, 1885.

8 Afterwards Surgeon, Medical Staff, resigned his commission, June 19, 1889.

9 Resigned his commission, October 10, 1888.

10 Died at Pietermaritzburg, Natal, April 16, 1885.

11 Now Colonel, late Royal Army Medical Corps, Principal Medical Officer, London District.

12 Now Lieutenant-Colonel, retired pay, late Royal Army Medical Corps.

13 Afterwards Quartermaster, with honorary rank of Captain, Medical Staff. Died in Sunderland, March 17, 1887, when on retired pay.

14 Afterwards Quartermaster, with honorary rank of Captain, Army Medical Staff. Died in London, June 19, 1897, when on retired pay.

15 Now Quartermaster, with honorary rank of Major, retired, Army Medical Staff.

16 Retired on retired pay as a Lieutenant-Colonel, with rank of Colonel in the Army, November 8, 1890.
Appointments of Adjutant, Paymaster, and Quartermaster.—On the day of embarkation the following appointments were made: Surgeon P. B. Conolly to be Acting Adjutant, Lieutenant of Orderlies J. Gordon to perform the duties of Paymaster, and Lieutenant of Orderlies W. Pike those of Quartermaster. There being no special duty for Lieutenant of Orderlies H. S. Webb, I directed that he should take his turn of orderly duty along with the Surgeons.

Too many Officers of Orderlies in the cadre of a Bearer Company.—I would here remark that I consider two officers of orderlies ample for the performance of all duties, proper to their rank, with a bearer company. In fact, one would probably be found quite sufficient, since in the field the duty of a paymaster for so small a number of men is purely nominal, and in the event of the company being temporarily divided into half companies a staff-serjeant could very well perform all quartermaster's duty pertaining to the half company on detachment, merely reporting to the quartermaster with head-quarters.

Duty on Board.—While on board ship the officers and men of the company were divided into three watches, and guards, parades and other duties were performed strictly in accordance with the Queen's Regulations.

Instruction.—During the voyage every man was put through a course of instruction in stretcher drill and the application of first dressings under the superintendence of Surgeon Major Faris, who also gave a course of instruction to the non-commissioned officers on the special duties they would be called upon to perform on active service, and the names and uses of the various articles of surgical equipment.

Carbine Drill.—Each man was also put through a course of carbine exercise by Conductor of Supplies W. Johnston, of the Army
Service Corps, who manifested great zeal in the performance of this duty.

Arrival in Natal.—The "Danube" arrived in the Bay of Durban on February 26, and the company disembarked that afternoon.

Durban to Pietermaritzburg by Train.—The next day, being Sunday, the company remained encamped at Durban, and on the morning of February 28, at 5.45 a.m., proceeded by special train to Pietermaritzburg.

Amajuba.—Just before leaving Durban news reached us of the fearful disaster at Amajuba, and the death of Major-General Sir George Pomeroy Colley.

The men only took with them from Durban their field kits, the remainder of their kits being left in the Government store.

Transport obtained.—On arrival at Pietermaritzburg the company was encamped, and here all the transport animals were procured, necessary equipment drawn, and the surgery wagon and five ambulances which we brought from Woolwich were put together.

The Bearer Company was here inspected by Deputy Surgeon General James Lewis Holloway, C.B., who addressed the men on the importance of the special duty they were intended to perform.

March up Country commenced.—Everything was ready for a move up country on the morning of Saturday, March 4, but the rain, which had not ceased for some days, continued, and it being useless to attempt to start the order for marching was cancelled. Next morning there was a cessation of the downpour and the march was commenced at 8 a.m. The roads were in a pitiable state, and the very steep road up the Town Hill is a well-known bugbear to the transport rider in the wet season, and is described in the "Official Route" as "almost impassable after heavy rains."

The transport supplied consisted in part of mules and part oxen. The latter are the better in wet weather. The animals forming the convoy consisted of twenty-two riding horses, seventy-six mules employed in drawing five ambulance wagons, one surgery wagon, and two general service wagons, and eighty-four oxen in five ox wagons and two water carts.

Charge of Ammunition.—The difficulty of transport was still further enhanced by a duty which the Bearer Company was ordered to perform, viz., to escort, and if necessary defend, five wagons laden with ammunition for the front.

A party of fifty "Bluejackets" under command of a Lieutenant, Royal Navy, proceeded up country at the same time as we did. They also had five ammunition wagons under their escort and always marched and encamped close to the Bearer Company. The distance to the top of the Town Hill from the camp at Fort Napier is about five or six miles, and it is impossible to exaggerate the utter badness of the road from the excessive rainfall which had prevailed.

"Overloaded Wagons." - The wagons were heavily laden and it was frequently necessary to detach one "span" of oxen from a wagon in order to bring forward another by the aid of a "double span."

"Difficulties from Rain and Bad Roads." - The men, by drag ropes and pushing, gave great help, and although all the Bearer Company wagons were got up and the camp was pitched at Klip Kop soon after dark, amidst a heavy downpour of rain which had recommenced in the afternoon, it was impossible to get up all the ammunition wagons that night. The oxen belonging to these wagons had therefore to be "outspanned," and the wagons left on the road all night with a sufficient guard under charge of the officer who was on baggage guard. The whole of next day was employed in getting up the ammunition wagons, but on the day following we were able to make a short "trek" over a sea of thick sticky mud which could only by courtesy be called a road.

"Slow Progress." - For seven days rain was almost incessant, and our progress was very slow. The officers and men were constantly wet, but all were determined to make the best of it and were eager to push on.

"Effect of News of First Armistice." - The receipt of a copy of an official telegram on March 8, to the effect that Major-General Sir Henry Evelyn Wood, V.C., K.C.B., and Mr. Joubert had agreed to an eight days' armistice (until the 14th), but directing that all military precautions were still to be observed, did not decrease the anxiety to go forward, as all supposed that after that day hostilities would be renewed, and the temporary cessation only seemed to increase our chance of "being in time."

"Estcourt reached and Oxen bought." - We reached Estcourt, a distance of 61 miles, on the 14th, and here having received a telegram from the Chief of the Staff directing me to "push on," and

19 Now G.C.B., G.C.M.G. Field Marshal.
finding the oxen terribly knocked up, I purchased on my own responsibility twenty-four oxen at £16 10s. per head.

Forced Marches.—The rain now ceased, and taking advantage of its being full moon we made forced marches first from Estcourt to Colenso, 22 miles, on the 15th, and next day from Colenso to the south bank of the Klip River, opposite Ladysmith, a distance of 20 miles. At both of these halts we bivouacked to save time and the fatigue of pitching camp.

Crossing the Klip River.—However, at the Klip River we were detained from the 17th to the 21st. The river was so high that the drift was impassable, and the "pont" could only be worked with difficulty. The pont was not strong enough to bear the weight of loaded wagons, so that each had to be unpacked, and only a regulated weight sent across at each trip. Consequently the whole of the 17th was occupied in getting over the ambulance wagons, and the baggage of one half company, which was sent across and encamped on the Ladysmith side of the river. During that night very heavy rain again fell, which so flooded the already swollen river as to render it impossible to use the pont, and we were only able the next day to get a few things across in a small boat with two broken oars. By the afternoon of the 19th the river subsided sufficiently to allow the pont to be again worked, and during the whole of that afternoon and moonlight night, the men unloaded the ammunition wagons, passed the ammunition and the empty wagons across on the pont, swam the mules and oxen across, and by 4 a.m. the whole convoy had crossed over.

Halt at Ladysmith.—A halt had to be made next day to rest man and beast, and on the morning of the 21st we renewed our march, reaching the Ingagane River, 55 miles from Ladysmith, on the afternoon of March 25.

"Laagering."—On the nights of the 22nd and 23rd, believing that the armistice had terminated, we had taken special military precautions by "laagering" our encampment each night, and posting outlying sentries, etc., but on the 24th we heard the armistice was extended, and therefore these measures were in future unnecessary.

Crossing the Ingagane River.—At the Ingagane we again had a flooded river to deal with, and the same work of unloading the baggage and ammunition, and carrying it over piecemeal on a pont had to be accomplished.21 This was, however, successfully

21 Besides the great labour of unloading and reloading the whole of the ammunition and baggage wagons at the Klip and Ingagane Rivers, it was
done in one day, by dint of hard work, late and early, and on the
27th we continued our march with tolerable weather, but execrable
roads, reaching Newcastle on the morning of the next day, having
only completed a total distance of 174 miles in twenty-three days.

Arrival at Newcastle.—On joining the Field Force, which was
encamped near Newcastle, we found that a six months' armistice
had been arranged. The large force of all arms here assembled
was destined to remain until the conclusion of that term, or until
the ratification of the Convention by the Boers. Consequently, for
the present, the services of a Bearer Company as such could not be
required.

Officers and Men detached from Bearer Company.—Accordingly,
by the order of the Principal Medical Officer, Lines of Communi­
cation and Base,™ four surgeons and two lieutenants of orderlies
were at once detached for various duties, and one staff-serjeant,
one corporal, and twenty-five privates were sent to the Base
Hospital, and fifteen privates to the Field Hospital.

Army Service Corps detached.—There being in the meantime
no further use for the detachment of the Army Service Corps with
the Bearer Company, it was handed over for service under the
Commissariat and Transport Department, on the understanding
that it was at once to rejoin in the event of active operations being
renewed.

Proposal to utilize Half-Company for Field Hospital.—The
Bearer Company being thus reduced to about the strength of a
Half Bearer Company, on April 1, I wrote to the Principal Medical
Officer, South Africa,™ suggesting that with it I could, during the
continuance of peace, very easily work an auxiliary Stationary
Field Hospital, and thus relieve the numbers in the very large
Movable Field Hospital, but this proposal was not adopted. Con­
sequently, during the time the Bearer Company remained encamped
in the vicinity of Newcastle (from March 25 to November 17, 1881)
it was little more than a depot for the Army Hospital Corps,
supplying officers, N.C.O.'s, and men as required, and receiving
them back when their services were no longer wanted elsewhere.

frequently necessary in the course of the march to unload a single wagon when it
had stuck in a "spruit" or deep mud hole. Some idea of the fatiguing nature of
this work may be formed from the fact that the weight of ammunition in each
wagon averaged 5,088 lb. The willing spirit evinced by the men on these occa­
sions was most praiseworthy.

™ Brigade Surgeon Edward Malcolm Sinclair, M.D., now C.B., Deputy
Surgeon General, retired, Army Medical Staff.

™ Deputy Surgeon General Holloway, see footnote 18.
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Question of the Necessity for Maintaining a Bearer Company.—I am aware it has been said that this was a great waste of labour, and has been even used as an argument against the very existence of a Bearer Company. But this objection is, I submit, more apparent than real. The conduct of this campaign has been, in the matter of maintaining a large force on a war footing during a six months' armistice, quite unprecedented. No one will argue that the keeping together of any part of the fighting portion of this force was of any use, except with the view to its being prepared to strike the moment it might be required, and it ought to be obvious that under the circumstances it was no less a necessity that the Bearer Company should be maintained, ready to perform its special function if fighting recommenced.

Men ought to have been more interchangeable.—Nevertheless, I consider it might have been made a much more useful institution if a system had been introduced of exchanging, from time to time, the men of the various hospitals with men from the company, so as to give each in turn experience in hospital work as well as an opportunity of keeping up his drill, and maintaining those habits of regularity and discipline which it is so much more easy to inculcate in an organization like a Bearer Company than in a hospital. As it was, for the seven and a half months during which we were detained in standing camp, the men were employed on guards, pickets, fatigues, and drill.

Three Different Camping Grounds at Newcastle.—For the first two days after the arrival of the Bearer Company at Newcastle the Field Force was encamped on the north side of the Incandu River, close to the town of Newcastle, but on March 31 the whole force was moved to an encamping ground on Signal Hill, about 4 miles from Newcastle. Here the force remained until May 6, when it was moved to Bennett's Drift Camp, which is about the same distance from Newcastle as Signal Hill, but is a far better camping ground. Here the troops remained until the breaking up of the force.

Employment in Standing Camp.—At Bennett's Drift Camp, in the prospect of a prolonged stay, as much as possible was done to make the men of the company comfortable and to keep them employed. A good-sized hut was built of turf which was roofed with canvas. This formed a good recreation-room for the men, in which they could read papers and books, play various games, and get coffee, cocoa, &c., and also enjoy the advantage of a fire in the cold winter nights. A football was also supplied for the men's
outdoor amusements. The men also built a "laager" of sods, which was used as a protection to the horses, and was a most useful piece of work. Low walls were built round the tent used as the officers' mess and the guard tent. A very elaborate system of drainage was dug, which rendered the Bearer Company encampment in wet weather the driest one in the camp.

Training of Regimental Stretcher-Bearers.—On April 11, on my recommendation, the Major-General Commanding sanctioned two men per company from each of the Infantry Regiments in camp being trained as regimental stretcher-bearers, and a class of forty men was accordingly put through a very complete course of instruction by Surgeon Major Faris. The course was completed on May 9, when before dismissal the class was inspected by Brigadier-General D. C. Drury-Lowe, C.B.

Transport of Wounded.—On April 20, a party of the Bearer Company, consisting of one non-commissioned officer and thirty men in charge of Surgeon Conolly, conveyed in stretchers from Schuins Hooghte to the Base Hospital, Newcastle (a distance of ten miles), four of the most badly wounded men from the front, an arduous duty which was accomplished with a minimum of discomfort to the patients.

Further Calls for Officers and Men.—Soon after the arrival of the Bearer Company at Newcastle, further demands were made for officers and men for other duties, and for some time only one Surgeon besides Surgeon Major Faris and myself was left with the Company. As the Bearer company had to take its share of camp pickets and also to furnish a guard over the Field Hospital in addition to the quarter guard over the Bearer Company camp, this reduction in the number of officers was too great, as it compelled me to ask Surgeon Major Faris to do orderly duty on alternate days with Surgeon Conolly, a duty which, as it involved visiting the sentries, was certainly not befitting a Field Officer, but one which he very cheerfully accepted on seeing the exigency of the case.

Carbines, &c., Returned into Store.—On May 14, the revolvers, Martini-Henry carbines and ammunition with which the Bearer Company had been equipped on leaving England were, on my recommendation to His Excellency the Major-General Commanding, given in to the Ordnance Store, as no longer necessary.

Preparations for a Renewal of Hostilities.—About the middle

1 Afterwards G.C.B., Lieutenant-General.
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of October, it being doubtful whether hostilities might not be renewed, everything was arranged for the immediate return of the men of the Army Service Corps, the rejoining of detached officers, non-commissioned officers and men, and the provision of transport animals and stores if the necessity arose. A serjeant and sixteen men of the 1st Battalion of the Welsh Regiment (which had only recently joined the Field Force) were on October 26 attached to the Bearer Company and put through a course of instruction in stretcher drill and bandaging, under Surgeon Major Faris; but as after some appearance of hesitation the Convention was duly ratified, these preparations were forthwith abandoned, and the troops forming the Field Force began to move down to the coast on November 6.

Order to March down Country and convoy Sick.—At last the order arrived for the Bearer Company to march down to Pietermaritzburg, on November 17, and to take with it a convoy of two sick officers, forty-four sick soldiers, besides six details to join their corps at Pietermaritzburg. The strength of the Bearer Company was now made up to two surgeons major, three surgeons, two lieutenants of orderlies, eight serjeants, and 113 rank and file. One of the surgeons detailed to accompany the Bearer Company was Surgeon Robert Drury, M.D., who having joined on October 5, had been put through a course of instruction and the Principal Medical Officer decided to send him home in place of one of the "trained" surgeons detailed to remain in the command.

Striking Rest Camps.—In addition to the duty of convoying the sick, the Bearer Company was ordered to strike and bring into store the equipment of the Rest Camps at the various posts on the road, which had been established for the accommodation of invalids proceeding from the front to Pietermaritzburg.

Rapid March.—The weather and the state of the roads on the downward march were in marked contrast with their condition on the up journey. The Bearer Company reached Pietermaritzburg on November 30, and having there handed over the sick, which had been augmented by seven men brought from Ladysmith, proceeded next day to Richmond Road camp about eight miles from Pietermaritzburg.

Detention at Richmond Road.—Whilst the Bearer Company

25 Now Lieutenant-Colonel, retired pay, late Royal Army Medical Corps.
26 Deputy Surgeon-General James Sinclair, M.D., afterwards Surgeon Major-General, K.H.P. Died at Belfast, November 21, 1910, when on retired pay.
was detained at Richmond Road awaiting passage to England, a large number of men were transferred from it and their places filled by men who had served for a longer period in the colony, and the company was made up to its original strength of non-commissioned officers and men.

*Company made up to full Strength except Officers.*—The Principal Medical Officer decided that the following officers should go home with it—viz., Surgeons Major W. Johnston and T. Faris, Surgeons R. Drury and P. B. Conolly, and Lieutenant of Orderlies W. Pike.

On December 24, Deputy Surgeon-General J. Sinclair, M.D., then Principal Medical Officer South Africa, inspected the Bearer Company previous to its leaving the command, and was pleased to express himself as much gratified by the appearance of the men and their conduct whilst in South Africa.

On December 28, the Bearer Company proceeded by train to Durban, and on the 30th embarked on board the steamship "Duart Castle" for conveyance to England.

*Embarcation for England.*—Brevet-Major H. G. MacGregor, the Worcester Regiment, was in command of the troops on board ship, and Surgeon Major Faris was in medical charge.

Besides the Bearer Company there were on board the 7th Company Commissariat and Transport Corps and a number of details. The officers and men of the Bearer Company took their turn of watches, guards, and other duties with the officers and men of other corps.

*Arrival at Portsmouth and Aldershot.*—The "Duart Castle" arrived at Portsmouth on January 27, and the Bearer Company proceeded by train the same day to Aldershot, when the men were handed over to the Officer Commanding the Depôt Army Hospital Corps.

*Thanks due to Various Officers.*—In concluding this report I beg to express my deep obligation to Surgeon Major Faris for the never-failing support he has so cheerfully given me on all occasions, and to record the zeal he displayed in training the regimental stretcher-bearers, in experimenting with and reporting on the new pattern cacolets and litters (sent for trial), as well as in the performance of every duty, however irksome, for which he was detailed.

Surgeon Conolly, who acted as my adjutant through the year of

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27 See footnote 26.
28 Now C.B., Colonel, retired pay.
the Bearer Company's existence, has, in the manner he performed his duties, satisfied me of the expediency of selecting an officer of the Medical Department for this position, and he has proved that to the qualifications of a good surgeon may easily be added the knowledge required to render one a good executive officer.

Surgeon Drury, who, as noticed above, only joined the Bearer Company in October, 1881, has displayed diligence in acquiring a knowledge of his duties and zeal in their performance.

Lieutenant of Orderlies Pike performed his duties of quartermaster to my entire satisfaction.

Much good work (and on the march up country it was most arduous) was also done by the other officers who came out with the Bearer Company, and I only regret that some of the young officers were not allowed to remain longer with it, since I am satisfied the experience they would have gained in dealing with a much larger number of men than is usually found in a detachment of the Army Hospital Corps could not fail to have been useful to them in their future careers.

Efficiency of the Serjeant-Major.—Serjeant-Major N. Ellis has proved himself a most reliable and useful warrant officer, and his excellent tact in dealing with non-commissioned officers and men has been of great assistance in maintaining a high state of discipline in the company.

Conduct of the Non-commissioned Officers and Men.—The conduct of the non-commissioned officers and men has been very good, and I have elsewhere mentioned those who seem to me to specially merit promotion.

Reviews


This is the 135th bulletin of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, and, like all the publications of the Bureau that we have seen, is most interesting and of great value. The author discusses the different methods for detecting parasites and ova in feces; he has devised a method which saves time and labour and is more accurate than those which are in general use.

He takes 4 to 5 oz. of feces and shakes them thoroughly in water in a rubber-corked bottle with a wide mouth. Shot may be added to assist in the comminution, or a mechanical shaker may be used. When thoroughly broken up, the feces are poured through a set of six brass