AN IDEAL STATION—BERMUDA.

By Mrs. PERCY HOPE FALKNER.

As some officers of the Corps are ordered to Bermuda every trooping season and as the requirements there differ in detail from any other station (except Jamaica), it is well to obtain up-to-date information before proceeding there.

The following facts are written after a sojourn of three and a quarter years in the islands:

Society.—There is a battalion of infantry, a company of gunners and about seven officers and one company of the Corps usually in the islands, though in former years there was more than double that number. In Ireland Island there is a fine naval dockyard, in which there is usually at least one British ship, and frequently one or two foreign ones. There are a few retired Service people, any number of American residents and American visitors, and the cheap fare season brings American trippers literally by the thousand. Heiresses abound, and are frequently acquired by Service men. The Governor resides in a fine house outside the town of Hamilton, where he holds frequent receptions, dances, &c. In addition, special “shows” are often arranged for foreign ships coming in and sometimes for our own ships. From New Year to the end of May there are always several dances a week, two of the largest hotels giving all the garrison a standing invitation during the season. Excellent golf can be had either on the garrison or the civilian links; fishing and sailing are also to be had, and boating, bathing, moonlight picnics, tennis, cricket, hockey, can all be indulged in as much as desired. There is practically no riding for ladies, and no polo, horses only being kept for use, and not for pleasure. There is a rather sketchy racecourse where much the same “owners” win every year, but as this is well known there is not much heartburning, and little or no competition. The boat-racing is not the most sporting under existing conditions, as there are no “one class” races, and handicapping therefore becomes rather difficult. For example, a tiny skiff might have to compete with a big yacht, under which conditions it is almost impossible to arrange “odds” that satisfy everyone concerned. This is rather a pity, as it deters many men from racing, but unless one can afford quite a large craft it is not much use competing against those who can.
It is advisable to bring out all sporting equipment, as it is rather expensive to buy them locally. Tennis racquets keep best in a rubber case, and those strung with black gut last much the longest. Even when every possible precaution is taken the racquets suddenly “go” apparently from no visible cause, and here the man scores who can put a new string in, as the charge for this is exorbitant, something like 1s. 8d. a string. It is essential though to keep this accomplishment quite secret, otherwise one would be called upon to do all the racquets in the station.

Saddlery too “goes” very quickly, and though it can often be bought secondhand from departing officers, it frequently turns out unsatisfactory, and in fact it is quite a matter of chance how any harness will turn out. Boats of various kinds can be picked up locally, but it is absolutely essential to see them first, and then to consult someone who really knows about them, as many of the craft have been sold again and again, and are merely repainted and recorked for each change of regiment.

The same sometimes applies to furniture: Do not buy in a hurry or you may hear the auctioneer say, “Bid up, ladies, I haven’t had such poor offers for that sofa for the last ten years.”

There are two local furniture stores and though the prices have
come down and the goods improved in the last few years, things still seem very dear to the newcomer. Most people have an auction on leaving and it is by far the most satisfactory method, for the vendor anyhow, as no matter what concessions the vendor may make in selling privately, the purchaser usually thinks he could have done much better by buying at an auction, and if after his deal someone else happens to get anything cheaper, he imagines he has been cheated. The best way to furnish therefore is to pick up things as one can at auctions and fill up with necessaries from the local shops. It is well to bring all lace curtains, cushions, linen, blankets, and all sorts of small table necessaries, such as ham frills, paper mats for fish, &c.; reels of cotton are double the home price, and so are all sorts of small needlework accessories; needles and all steel articles must be kept in air-tight bottles or cases.

It is not necessary to bring out china and glass specially, but any that is not of a very valuable kind might be brought, and will find ready purchasers when leaving the islands. Large looking-glasses are almost impossible to get and if a lady who is going away has one there is quite a competition to secure it. Quite the best kind to take is the ordinary plain looking-glass framed in white wood, obtainable for a couple of pounds anywhere at home, and made with an "easel" support at the back; this can be packed flat and put into a narrow crate.

Hair mattresses are among the specially expensive articles of furniture in Bermuda, so are pillows, and the officer who is lucky enough to get a house with a fireplace will find it impossible to buy any kind of fireiron or fender; matting carpets are greatly used and small ones cost from 15s. locally, if other kinds are desired it is well to bring them out. Visiting cards, notepaper headings, cresting, and private invitation cards cannot be done on the islands, so it is well to bring a good stock of all these; dance programmes are very dear, and there is a very poor selection. No valuable books or pictures should be brought, as these are ruined in the damp weather. Lamps are largely used and plain ones can be got locally. Coal is supplied free to officers, but if the allowance is exceeded costs £2 7s. a ton. Oil is obtained cheaply through the barracks department. There are only a few pianos for hire and they are most expensive to buy locally, but it would pay officers to bring out a fairly good one, suitable for the Tropics (iron frame, &c.); they would be pretty certain to get a good price for it when leaving. Pianos cost 10s. a time to tune; the best local man is coloured.

Houses are of the bungalow type and are usually available for
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all officers of the Corps, from the rank of captain upwards; they are nearly all quite comfortable and are supplied in lieu of lodging allowance. Many of them have fireplaces, and these are a real necessity in the damp, cold months.

Bermuda is a three years' station for the Royal Army Medical Corps, and if ladies get away the second summer they can usually do the whole tour all right, provided they are not delicate. Children as a rule do well and can safely be kept there longer than they could stay in India. The pay is the same as at home, with an additional allowance of 2s. 6d. a day, while allowances can be drawn instead of rations, at the rate of 10d. a day. At one time "wives" too were allowed rations, but some horrid bachelor came along and asked could he have an allowance instead of the "ration" that he could claim if he had a wife. Instead of handing him over for suitable treatment to militant suffragettes, all the "wives" in the station suffered by having their grant permanently withdrawn.

There are two very large and expensive hotels, and numerous boarding houses; the only hotel making special terms for officers is the Kenwood, where they charge about 8s. a day per head for a family—baths and afternoon tea extra.
Bermuda being only forty-eight hours from New York, most people try to go there during their tour; from there less than a day’s travelling takes one into Canada, where one can spend leave quite reasonably. The islands are four days from Jamaica. The latter is very similar in many ways to Bermuda, though not so expensive to live in.

Climate.—The weather seems to vary every year; about Christmas time it is usually fairly cold, and most of the heaviest rain comes in the spring; it may rain for days at a time, but owing to the coral soil dries up very quickly. Last summer was fairly wet, and therefore not so hot as usual, but the rain was so scarce in the previous year that everyone was put on an allowance of water, and, indeed, for a short time there was a certain amount of anxiety felt on the subject. Drinking water is simply rain caught on the roofs of big whitewashed tanks and drawn from them as required. A long spell of dry weather therefore is a serious matter, but usually the rain comes “just in time” to prevent serious consequences.

The hottest months are July to October, while spring is usually the wettest period.

Cost of Living.—Many “foodstuffs” are quite expensive, meat and fowls being almost double the price charged in England; milk is 6d. a quart, though sometimes it can be had at headquarters for less. It pays almost anyone to keep a cow, and there are very few good ones to be had locally. Some people import them from America, but this is expensive and risky. It would certainly pay anyone with a family to bring one out on the trooper, which can be done comparatively cheaply. A really good cow would keep a family in milk and butter for the entire tour, and if it was in good condition at the end of that time would probably fetch more than its original price. The canteen helps to keep down the local rates for groceries, which are not so very much more than at home. Fruit, except bananas, is expensive and not too plentiful. Owing to the destructive fly that ruined the crop some years ago, very little fruit is grown in the islands, and is chiefly imported from New York. The same applies to vegetables; but everyone grows all they can, and some of the officers’ gardens are excellent. Poultry, too, is kept by many people, as eggs are often 3s. 6d. a dozen and sometimes even more at Christmas time. In fact, people frequently finish their tour with quite a store of knowledge on farmyard subjects.

Servants are more expensive than in any other colony except perhaps South Africa. At headquarters a good cook will demand
£3 or £3 10s. a month, and will not do any washing; in the out-
stations, such as Boaz Island, they can often be had for £2
upwards. They are usually very reluctant to leave their own
particular corner of the islands, and many of them have never
been further than a few miles from their homes. They speak
English and like to be treated exactly like English servants, and
are rather free and easy in their manners. Another peculiarity is
that when they go for a night out they take it, literally, not return­
ing till nearly breakfast time next morning. Housemaids get from
£18 up to £24, thanks to the Americans; and nurses, though they
are usually in request only for infants, can get about the same.
They have nasty little rooms built on to the bungalow outside,
where they sleep, and very strongly object if the floors are damp.
Some of these servants are excellent, and if one is lucky enough to
get good ones they will probably remain the whole of one’s time.

It is not advisable to bring out English servants; at the best
it means one has to give up one of the inside rooms of the house
to them, as it is quite impossible for them to sleep outside; then
one is liable for their fare home at any time if they have to be
dismissed. Agreements are useless; three years ago a lady brought
out three English servants; all signed agreements to stay three
years. Three must have been her unlucky number, for in about three
months they had all left for various reasons. The lady had not
to pay their passages simply because they decided to take other
situations locally. Of course it is different with a nurse; one must
take a certain amount of risk if there are children, and she, of
course, would sleep with the child and not take an extra room.
Laundresses charge about 5s. a head per family, and an extra 5s.
for the household linen; few are good, and collars and shirts are
washed separately by Chinamen.

Horses and Traps.—All had better be obtained locally, and very
few people keep good horses, there is so little use for them. They
are just used for getting about, and in a place where there are no
trains, trams, or motors of any kind, one must have something.
A trap that has a movable hood is most useful for both damp
and hot weather, in fact a trap without a hood is utterly useless
in the summer sun. The horses, like many other items, pass on
from owner to owner, and so it is quite a chance how any of them
are going to turn out. Occasionally some good horses are imported
from the States and are eagerly bought up.

Clothing.—Men love Bermuda, as they can usually dress as
badly as they please, and, except for special occasions, usually go
about in the oldest flannels. Even at official shows the top-hat and morning coat are unknown. For Government House uniform is always worn, and, indeed, men wear their uniform a good deal in this station. Khaki drill, as used in India, is worn most of the year, but for cold days a serge suit is a necessity. Linen suits are greatly worn, and can be obtained locally for 35s., but as there are not many tailors and these few are chiefly engaged making blanket coats for American girls, it is as well to take out a few suits. Flannels are quite double the home price, and though most ordinary ready-made garments are to be had, many of them have an unmistakable "Yankee" look about them. Two nice tweed suits will be required to start with, and even these will spend much of their time in a cupboard, feeding plump cockroaches. Two cotton mess-jackets are useful for the hot weather, and one of the most pressing needs is a waterproof coat that will be wearable in uniform or mufti. One without much rubber lasts best in the damp climate. All gloves must be kept in air-tight bottles and a large stock of evening ones is recommended. A few large tin-lined trunks are useful for keeping things in that are not in use. All clothing should be regularly aired in the sun.

Ladies' Clothes.—Much the same things are required as at home, only more of everything, as there are no facilities for getting things in a hurry. There are no dyers or cleaners of any kind nearer than New York, and it is cheaper to send things home. Plenty of evening frocks are required for people who intend to go about much, and it is better in this station to stay at home than to go in "dowdy," home-made looking garments, and to be conspicuously badly dressed among the crowds of beautifully-gowned Americans. Of course, officers' wives cannot compete with them, nor do they want to, but there is no excuse for the terrible garments some of them turn out in, on the ground that it does not matter in Bermuda. Several good afternoon frocks will be found essential for Government House shows, and one or two good lingerie frocks for hot weather "at homes." It does not matter how simple and plain everyday frocks are, but nothing coloured is recommended. A few warmer costumes are a great comfort, as one feels any drop in temperature much more than at home. Linens are useful for between seasons, and an old fur coat is very useful for going to dances by boat, but it is not essential, and no good furs should be brought. A waterproof coat is necessary, plenty of gloves for evening wear, but otherwise they are very little worn. High winds are frequent, so a few small hats and plenty of
thick chiffon veiling are essential both for sun and wind. Evening shoes can seldom be obtained, but excellent American shoes for other wear are not too expensive. Linen and underwear generally should not be too fragile, and glace silk is practically useless. Satin is the best material for evening wear, and a "simple" frock for small occasions will be found most useful.

Children require plenty of strong washing garments and a couple of coats of various degrees of warmth to wear according to weather, while thin wool underclothes are advisable.

The islands lie low, are very pretty, and are covered with cedar and oleander trees, but the flowers are rather disappointing, except where cultivated. There are beautiful little bits of quite tropical scenery, and the lovely blue sea, with white roads threaded like ribbons in and out among the green background, makes a picture hard to equal.

The station is generally considered a delightful one except by people who are "unable to live without horses," and almost every one in the Corps applies for an extension, which, unfortunately, is very seldom granted.

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Lectures.

THE USE OF GRAPHICS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL SERVICES ON STAFF TOURS AND IN THE FIELD.¹

By Colonel W. G. MACPHERSON, C.M.G., K.H.P.

One of the chief difficulties which an administrative medical officer has to face in taking part in a staff tour is to avoid confusion and keep pace with the narratives issued by the directing staff in such a way as to ensure a proper sequence in the tactical and strategical employment of his medical units. He must be able to give a clear account of the position of these units, the state in which they are, the amount of work which they have done and are still capable of doing, the movement of sick and wounded, and so on at any hour of the day or night.

In the system of training the medical services in Austria tables are used to indicate the place of each medical unit and number of sick and wounded in it at a given hour each day; but I have found the graphic method described by Troussaint in his recently published work on the

¹ Reprinted from the Journal of the United Service Institution of India, July, 1912.