

THE SUPERNUMERARIES OF MODERN WARFARE.

Some of the Men Who Are Nearly Always Under Fire and Still Have No Opportunity to Win Undying Fame.

INDISPENSABLE, YET UNKNOWN.

A MODERN army is like a watch. Behind the open face of the fighting mass is the complicated machinery which keeps that mass in action. The general public knows little of this machinery and its workings, of the men behind "the man behind the gun," but these unknown actors in the drama of war, these supernumeraries of the battlefield, are as essential to the carrying on of a campaign as is the fighting man himself.

The commissariat department, the ambulance corps, the burying detail, the ammunition corps, the medical

ful householder may draw several lessons. The question of cooks and supplies naturally leads to that of transportation. When one remembers that an army corps at the front requires every day no less than 300 tons of stores and supplies, it is easy to appreciate the value of the transport and supply service. Each battalion of 1,000 men and officers has, as a rule, at least in the present case, 16 wagons, 38 draft horses, 3 pack mules and 22 drivers. Railways, of course, have been made use of, but their capacity is limited and their position

nearest "dressing station." Here his wound is attended to as quickly and as adequately as possible, though the treatment must obviously be only of a temporary nature. Stimulants are also administered here. From the "dressing station" the wounded are taken to what are called "collecting stations," these same stations being placed some distance from the front, where more shelter is possible. After a day or two here the unhappy Tommy with a bullet in his anatomy is usually removed to the "base hospital," or to one of the hospital ships either at Durban or at the Cape, where his travels for the time are ended. Here he receives the best of care and attention, with good surgeons, good things to eat and careful nursing to bring him back to health. The men who make up the different regimental bearer companies are among the bravest in the service. They are

paratus, by the way, is secured in a peculiar manner. It is generated, in fact, by a small dynamo driven by means of a tandem bicycle.

One of the strangest of war's supernumeraries is the trained chiropodist, who always accompanies the up to date army. The English military authorities have recognized that good marching is a factor in infantry efficiency. So Tommy Atkins' pedal extremities and their ailments are now attended to by trained soldier chiropodists, and the soldier boy with sore feet is at once taken care of by the proper official.

The commissariat department of the British army in South Africa is no insignificant thing. It has been the constant endeavor of the British command to have a four months' stock of supplies on hand at the seat of war. Just what a tremendous stomach John Bull has to feed may be realized from the fact that several months ago, when the English army in the field was by no means so large as it now is, the amount

of army horses and mules as well as men have to be fed and taken care of. This means an immense corps of farriers, veterinary surgeons and grooms to look after the officers' mounts. Thirty-one thousand tons of oats, about an equal quantity of baled hay and 3,000 tons of bran, it was found, were necessary to last out the four months' period. The forwarding and distribution of this, as well as the food for the men, is no little task. This, as has already been said, has to be looked after by the army service corps. They reached South Africa well in advance of the main body of the army, as is usually the case, and in a general way got things ready for the belligerent visitors who were to come later. A company of the army service corps is attached to each brigade and each division, forming the nucleus of the transportation service of the division to which it is attached.

One of the most interesting side organizations of the British army is the

It is no easy task to keep a firing line supplied with water, for water is even more difficult to handle than ammunition itself. Each company has its water wagon, hauled by horses or mules, and this wagon is brought up to the front just before an action, the animals detached and the wheeled tank left there. Privates are then marked off to carry out and distribute the water in the regulation army water bottles, which are made of leather. It will be remembered how, during the battle of the Modder river, a detachment of these water carriers was decimated by Boer sharpshooters while filling their bottles with water for their fellows on the firing line.

It is also interesting to note how the soldier in the field gets his letters from home. Every division has its own post-office and postoffice official. Letters for a certain company are delivered in bulk to the company commander and later distributed to the men. Inadequately addressed letters are held at headquarters and the army list consulted to find the proper location of the person addressed.

The auxiliary or "side show" branches of the great army circus provide for an unusually large number of warrant and noncommissioned officers—in fact, one out of every four men is an officer. As the quartermasters of the army medical staff are selected from the warrant officers of the same corps, there is every chance for all worthy of it to advance to commissioned rank. The army service corps as a rule is composed of artisans, clerks and tradesmen of almost every sort—strong, serviceable, apt young fellows who must be able to read and write and show certificates of good conduct. This arm of the service is made up mostly of little men, youths with military aspirations, but without the qualified number of inches. They must be at least 5 feet 3 inches in height and from 18 to 25 years of age.

The Boer side-shows of war service are not so pretentious and elaborate as those prevailing in the British army.

The New and Old Valentines.

Opinions differ very much as to whether the observance of St. Valentine's day is decreasing or not. Some people say that not nearly so many tender sentiments and comic messages are exchanged on the 14th of February nowadays as used to be the custom. The truth of the matter probably is that about a certain number are sent through the mails every year, varying somewhat with the condition of business year by year.

In days gone by the time honored custom was to send either a very elaborate arrow-pierced heart to one's lady fair, accompanied with a suitable message, or a valentine of some kind. The valentine, as we know it, is a modern invention, and is placed with the intention of making the recipient mad.

The old valentine, however, was a much more delicate, however, your valentine to date looks like a bunch of violets or daintily shaped roses of verse or bonbons in dainty shaped receptacles. A very pretty idea is to send the lady a thermometer, the bulb of which is heart shaped, and the degree marked in succession from the depth of winter's discontent to happiness and on to absolute bliss.

The connection of the original St. Valentine with the customs now common on Feb. 14 is not exactly clear. According to history he was a Roman priest who was beaten to death by order of the Emperor Claudius in the year 270 A. D. Several years later the church declared him a martyr and issued a decree appointing Feb. 14 a day to be celebrated in his honor.

According to Isaac Disraeli and other historians, many of the children's games of Italy, the tumbler and street acrobats, the carnival and speaking pantomimes, were all once common in ancient Rome. The custom connected with St. Valentine's name may be traced to a practice common in the same city. Festivals called the Lupercalia were held during the month of February in honor of Februus-Juno. One of the ceremonies consisted in placing in a box with great pomp and ceremony a number of slips bearing the names of young girls. After the box had been well shaken up the young men each drew a slip and thus obtained what we should call a valentine.

The leaders of the early Christian church objected to what they called heathen rites and substituted the names of saints instead of those of young girls. Each youth was supposed to imitate the example of the saint whose name he drew. The heathen rite took place on the 14th of February, and that date was continued as the time for the new ceremony. That day being St. Valentine's, his name has come down to us linked with the custom.

One old writer says: "St. Valentine was chosen to be the guardian of lovers not because lovers are more superstitious than other people, but because they have more imagination."

Slight differences in the manner of celebrating St. Valentine's day exist in different countries, but the same idea runs through all the ceremonies. It is the day of choosing one's mate. Old country tradition has it that all birds of the air choose their mates for the year on St. Valentine's day.

OOM PAUL'S NERVE.

A good story is told of Mr. Kruger as a young man, which shows that he was quite able to take care of himself. Once when out hunting on foot Mr. Kruger, after climbing to the top of a hill, found that he had been seen by a number of hostile natives, who were then running toward him, some to climb the hill, others branching out to surround it. He knew that these on the flat could cut him off before he could descend and that his only chance lay in "bluff." Stepping on to the outermost ledge in full view of his enemy, he calmly laid down his rifle, drew off first one and then the other of his homemade hide boots (in those poorer days worn without socks), and, after quietly knocking the sand out of them, drew them on again. By this time the natives had stopped to observe him. He then picked up his rifle again, and, turning to an imaginary force behind the kopje, waved to the right and then to the left, as though directing them to charge round each end of the hill. The next instant the Kaffirs were in full retreat.

THE ARMY "UNIT."

We hear a good deal about "units" of the British army, and it is not always easy to know what it means. When an army—that is, several army corps—is fighting, the unit means an army corps.

When an army corps is fighting, the unit means a division, or one-third of the corps.

When a division is fighting, the unit means a brigade, or one-half of the division.

When a brigade is fighting, the unit means a battalion, or one-fourth of the brigade.

Usually, however, a unit is used to mean one of the following:

A battalion of infantry—1,000 men.
A squadron of cavalry—100 men.
A battery of artillery—4 guns.
A company of mounted infantry—110 men.

A company of engineers, of the army service corps and of other accessory troops.

INSIGNIFICANT WOUNDS.

A Berlin physician has written an article on the dangers resulting from what are considered insignificant wounds. For instance, in 13 wounds in the thumb permanent disability followed in 26 per cent.



staff, the paymaster, the cook, the water carrier—all have to go along with the firing line no matter in what part of the world the campaign may be taking place. The British army now in South Africa affords an excellent example of this inner organization of a great fighting force in the field.

Man, when at war or peace, has to be fed. "An army marches on its stomach," goes the old saying. The army cook is a very important person, and modern army cooking may be described as an exact science. A few years ago it was a slapdash, go as you please sort of thing; nowadays the nutritive values of foods are determined by specialists, the cost worked out to six decimal points and the actual cooking and preparing done by carefully trained men who have to pass an examination before they can claim the distinction of operating before the army range. At Aldershot, the great military center of England, there was founded and has been in operation for some time an army school of cooking. This institution has huge kitchens, a complete equipment and a full staff of cooking professors. Here Tommy Atkins with aspirations for the frying pan and the stew kettle goes in training for four months. He does not, of course, make a study of fancy dishes. When he graduates, however, he knows enough about cooking to feed half a thousand men.

A sergeant cook in the English army receives an appointment extra ray of sixpence a day, and on the completion of nine years' service since a day. At the beginning of the South African campaign the Aldershot school of cookery was soon emptied of all its plum puff scholars, who were at once shipped off to the front to cook beef and bread and coffee for their brother Tommy on the firing line. The strictest economy is exerted in feeding the soldier, and the result is that his food in the field—and good food it is, too—costs him only about 11 cents a day. From which the peace-

tion often renders them unavailable. Trek oxen have also been made use of to some extent, both for transport and for hauling the heavy guns of the British. But, owing to the rinderpest in the Transvaal, these animals have become very scarce, and it was for this reason that England found it necessary to have her agents in America purchase so many thousands of mules for service in South Africa. The transport wagons which these mules haul are of the American type. They weigh about a ton and require 12 mules to haul them when loaded. The usual load is one or two tons, and the wagons, under ordinary circumstances, work in sections of 20. The mules are fed on crushed corn, and, as their ration is eight pounds a day, each section requires half a wagon load of mealies for an eight hours' journey. Oxen in most cases find their own food on the veldt, but they are extremely slow.

The medical transport, from the brigade field hospitals to the field hospitals at the advance depots and then along the line of communication to the base, has been carried on by the army service corps. The care of the sick and wounded among the British soldiers in South Africa, notwithstanding the appalling losses and disasters which they have sustained, has been most satisfactory. All the effective aid in the field has been that of the army medical corps. Voluntary aid has confined itself chiefly to the lines of communication between the field and the base hospitals and general hospitals. What is called the "bearer companies" of the army medical corps accompany the fighting line. The Indian "dooly bearers" are the most famous of these. There are usually three or four of these bearers attached to each regimental company. When a man drops out wounded, the army medical corps men, who are always on hand, at once, or, rather, as soon as possible, pick him up and carry him either by stretcher or by wagon to the

always under fire, but must take no part in the fighting. They have to follow up the fighting line, and, as the combatants are wounded by shot and shell, gather them up and convey them to the rear, often enough under the heaviest fire. What is known as the heaviest hospital must be able to advance or retire with the fighting force. The personnel of the field hospital staff consists of one surgeon lieutenant colonel, who is in command; one surgeon major, two surgeon captains and one quartermaster of the army medical staff, one sergeant major, seven staff sergeants and sergeants and 32 of the rank and file of the medical staff corps. There is no such thing as a woman nurse at the front in the South African war. The whole work in a field hospital is carried on by men, the women nurses doing duty only at the base hospital, where they are just about as well protected as they would be in any large metropolitan hospital in the most piping times of peace.

Some of the articles and utensils carried by a field hospital are unique. It carries its own blacksmith's forge and anvil, tools for farriers, shoemakers and carpenters, with, of course, all the usual hospital necessities. Four large panniers filled with tea, cocoa, various sauces of beef, brandy, whisky and drugs are accompanied by eight more panniers packed with enameled basins, knives, instruments and all such metal articles. Not an inch of space must be wasted, for each pannier must weigh no more than 50 pounds.

One of the new features in the outfit of the modern field hospital is the Roentgen ray apparatus for peering into the wounded Britisher's body and locating Boer bullets. The electricity necessary for the operation of this ap-

of preserved meat alone stood at 12,000,000 pounds, with an equal quantity of army biscuit. One hundred tons of tea and twice that amount of coffee had also to be kept ready for the ever thirsty Tommy. To sweeten his food sufficiently for a space of four months Tommy has to have 1,100 tons of sugar. Of salt he had 200 tons. Of compressed vegetables he got away with 800,000 pounds in the four months, while nearly 500,000 tins of sweetened and unsweetened condensed milk passed through the commissariat department for the same space of time.

Jam is now an essential feature of the English soldier's diet. So he had to have 1,500,000 one pound tins of this delicacy, which was given him not as a sweetmeat, but more as a medicine, the valuable authorities having discovered the such a diet in the absence of a proper supply of fresh vegetables, the best preventive of scurvy.

Tommy also has to have his liquids. These include 80,000 gallons of rum, 12,000 bottles of whiskey, 32,000 bottles of port wine for the invalids and 400,000 pounds of lime juice. The commissariat department has also to keep a supply of tobacco, for which Tommy pays at the exceedingly modest rate of a shilling a pound. Of the fragrant weed Tommy uses five tons a month.

The hospital supplies which have to be carried by the commissariat department show equally gigantic figures when it comes to an army such as the English now have in South Africa. Six thousand tons of carbolic acid powder, 20 tons of chloride of lime, 10 tons of patent disinfecting powder and 16,000 pounds of iodine are among a few of the little hospital necessities called for by the men at the front.

railway corps, a body made up of men from the various railway shops of Great Britain. These men are skilled in the construction, repairing and handling of locomotives, cars, signals and the general equipment and operation of railways. Now that the railway and the armored train have come to play such an important part in warfare, this corps of men forms a very necessary part in the make up of an army such as Roberts now has in the lower end of the Dark Continent. In a way this newly formed corps supplements the work of the regular army engineers, who occasionally have not either the time or the special skill for certain phases of railway construction and operation. The army service corps, it must be remembered, is made up of men who are non-combatants, just as the Red Cross and medical staff corps are. Another corps of men who are strictly non-combatants and yet have very unenviable tasks to perform are those men constituting the burying details. These men, according to the amenities of war, are allowed to perform their work unmolested by the enemy. It is done very quietly and as secretly as possible, as burial services naturally have a bad effect on the morale of the troops when performed openly before them.

but they seem even more satisfactory than those of their enemies in khaki. There are very few supernumeraries in the Boer camp. Every man there is a fighter, no matter what his duties may be when an actual battle is not taking place. Every Boer, too, carries his own ammunition, and there is no necessity to detail off a large number of men to carry bullets and blintz out to the firing line. The doughy Boer has them, as a rule, in the spacious pockets of his Boer rough, old bumper coat. The Boer does not have jam for supper, nor condensed milk and port wine. On his ability to exist a few hundred miles distant from his commissariat department depends very much of his effectiveness as a fighter. Even his horses can go for days without a supply of provender from headquarters, as the veldt always has a supper for the burgher's tired steed. Outside of his own country, of course, all this would be different, and the Boer would lose those peculiar advantages which he now enjoys. But even the way in which the Transvaalers have taken care of their wounded has shown that there is more organization in Pretoria and Bloemfontein than was dreamed of in the philosophy of General Buller.

TRISTRAM W. WILCOX.

IN OUR OWN LAND.

Archbishop Patrick J. Feehan of Chicago owns a complete set of the rare first editions of Newman's works, on the fly leaf of each volume of which appears the cardinal's autograph.

Nearly 100 persons lost their lives on the great lakes during the past season. Fifty-six were drowned by the foundering of ships and 22 were lost overboard.

No lives were lost on any of the regular lines.

The committee engaged in the work of providing a home for General Wade Hampton have bought a building lot in Columbia, S. C., and are now having erected thereon a comfortable house. The funds for the purpose were provided by public subscription, against which

General Hampton protested, but to no avail.

James F. Carey of the Massachusetts legislature has introduced into that body a bill which provides that no agent shall be permitted to enter the premises of the statehouse unless he wear a badge bearing the words "legislative agent" or "legislative counsel." The badges are to be provided by the ser-

geant-at-arms and must be conspicuously displayed by the wearer. The bill is intended to correct some of the evils of lobbying.

Upward of \$200 in 10 cent subscriptions has been raised in Cleveland, O., for the purpose of beautifying the grave of Moses Cleveland, the founder of the city. The plan is to buy the property in which the Cleveland family is bur-

ied and to place an iron railing around it and plant flowers in the plot. The grave is in an abandoned cemetery in Canterbury, Conn., which is neglected to such an extent that sheep graze among the tombstones and cattle wander about the place unmolested.

Professor Todd of Amherst college and Percival Lowell of Boston are making preparations for a trip to Africa to

observe the eclipse of the sun in May next. Mr. Lowell's interest in astronomy began in an amateur way six or seven years ago. He founded the Lowell observatory at Flagstaff, A. T., in 1894, and since then has made some important observations.

Abraham Lincoln was a moderately successful lawyer, but his son, Robert T., has received in one case more than

his father ever had for legal and official services during his whole life. In the matter of the Pullman estate he pocketed over \$425,000.

H. M. Moore, the president of the trustees of Northfield (Mass.) seminary, says that not a dollar received from the hymnbooks has ever been used by Mr. Moody or Mr. Sankey for his own personal use.