MCKENZIE AND WENTWORTH'S BREECH-LOADING RIFLES.

After the Meeting, Mr. W. Strode, (Assoc. Inst. C.E.,) exhibited specimens, and explained the action, of Messrs. McKenzie and Wentworth's breech-loading rifles.

The conditions sought to be fulfilled in these rifles were:—

- 1st. That they should be able to take the present ammunition.
- 2nd. That they should have a sound joint at the junction of the breech and the barrel.
- 3rd. That there should be nothing liable to be discharged against the soldier himself, by his own act, in case of the bursting of the rifle; and, therefore, no plug, or stopper to be put in from the back, or breech end of the barrel.
- 4th. That the strength should not be less, and the weight scarcely more, than in the present guns.
- 5th. That the moveable breech should be capable of adaptation to any barrel, as well as to any form of ammunition.

He stated, that these rifles only differed from those of the Enfield pattern, in the breech and in the stock; so that, if the changes were made which these alterations involved, they could be readily manufactured at the Government establishment at that place. It was thought, that such a weapon would be especially useful for Volunteer Rifle Corps, as muzzle-loading would not be necessary.

February 21 and 28,
and March 6, 13, and 20, 1860.

GEORGE PARKER BIDDER, President,
in the Chair.

The discussion upon the Paper, No. 1,014, "On the Construction of Artillery, &c.," by Mr. J. A. Longridge, occupied the whole of these five evenings, to the exclusion of any other subject.

At the Meeting of March 6, the following Candidates were balloted for, and duly elected:—ALEXANDER BASSETT, as a Member; WILLIAM BEARDMORE, THOMAS BROWN, R.N., JOHN WILTSHIRE CLARKE, HENRY LEE CORLETT, NATHANIEL GREW, JAMES LOVEGROVE, JOSEPH PHILLIPS, EMANUEL ROBERTS, CHARLES RITCHIE WALKER, and CHARLTON JAMES WOLLASTON, as Associates.