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FOREIGN SECTION.

THIS portion of the Number, hitherto the Occasional Notes, has now become the Foreign Section, and is reserved for articles, either original or compiled, on professional subjects connected with Foreign Naval and Military matters; also for notices of Professional Books, either Foreign or English.

It is requested that articles, communications, and books for review (the latter under cover to the Librarian) may be addressed to me at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall Yard, London, S.W.

LONSDALE HALE,

Colonel R.E. ret.

GERMAN DIVISIONAL CAVALRY.

By Major C. BARTER, D.A.A.G.

RECENT alterations made in the German official "Felddienst-Ordnung," or Field Service Manual, are of interest, as showing the successive changes of opinion regarding the employment of cavalry with the larger units in the field.

During the last few years there had been a tendency to use cavalry in masses on the battle-field, and accordingly two years ago, in imitation of the French organization, it was decreed that in war there should be formed Army Corps Cavalry Brigades, placed directly under the Army Corps Commanders. The cavalry regiments belonging to the infantry divisions were to be withdrawn from them for this purpose, and to each division was to be detailed a small detachment of cavalry, varying in strength according to the necessities of each case.

This organization did not, however, give satisfaction at the autumn manoeuvres of the past two years, and the old order of things is now reverted to, the Army Corps Cavalry Brigades being abolished, and a cavalry regiment again forming an integral part of each Infantry Division.

It is stated in the new instructions that the chief duty of the

divisional cavalry after gaining close touch with the enemy is to consist in reconnoitring work, although a tactical use of this cavalry is not excluded, should a favourable occasion present itself. Heretofore the instructions, on the contrary, made the tactical employment of the cavalry the chief consideration, giving the reconnoitring work a secondary, though still important, place.

The tenour of the latest orders points generally to the opinion that the principal rôle of cavalry in the future will be that of securing safety for the infantry in front and on the flanks, both on the march and on the battle-field. As regards the tactical use of cavalry, it is considered that precisely by its intimate connection with the Infantry Division will it in this sense find its best chances of employment, but not so often in large as in small bodies, that is, generally by squadrons. With regard to this point, criticisms which have appeared in the German press on the new instructions point out that with the new order of things, there will be presented to small bodies of cavalry, well led by Commanders able to make the best use of natural ground features, favourable opportunities, during the course of an action, for rapid and energetic surprises. Attention is called to the fact that in the Franco-German War the German cavalry in the north and north-west of France thus attacked sixteen times, and that twelve times it was completely successful. All these attacks were made by bodies consisting of two or less squadrons.

A point which has of late been much discussed in German and Austrian military literature is also settled by the new instructions. It is decreed that in future no body of troops down to, and including, single battalions, are to be without a few cavalymen for reconnoitring purposes, and it is expressly stated that the number of cavalymen is to be measured by the necessities of each case, so that it will not be necessary to employ infantry patrols when on the march. When independent cavalry bodies are being formed, the requirements of the infantry in this respect are to be taken into account.

The projected allotment in war of a few cavalymen to other units, in this manner, follows closely upon a similar measure introduced into the Austrian regulations for field manœuvres.