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Occasional Papers and Notices of Books

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OCCASIONAL PAPERS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

This portion of the Number 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 communications or books for review may be addressed, during the temporary absence of Lieut.-Colonel Lonsdale Hale, to

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"REVUE MILITAIRE DE L'ETRANGER."

THE knowledge of the existence of this publication is confined to so few Officers in the English Service, that it is desirable to give to a notice of it the most prominent position in this portion of the Journal.

The *Revue* is a Government weekly military newspaper, edited in one of the bureaux of the French War Ministry, and circulated by the Government gratuitously, largely throughout the Army. The purpose of the *Revue* is to keep France posted in the latest improvements or alterations which may be carried out in foreign armies. Taking, for example, the thirteenth and fourteenth volumes issued during the two half-years of 1878, we find the following countries drawn upon:—Afghanistan, Alsace-Lorraine, England, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Japan, Roumania, Russia, Servia, Norway and Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey.

The subjects treated comprise—Administration, Small Arms, Small-Arm Practice, Military Art, Tactics, Artillery, Military Budgets, Camps of Assembly and of Exercise, Cavalry, Remounts, Railways, Staff, Study of Theatres of War, Fortification, Engineering, Military History, Infantry, Military Education, Maritime Affairs (to a slight extent), Medical Department, Mobilization, Organization, Recruiting, Statistics, Military Telegraphy, and Signalling.

In the articles which form the main portion of each number, criticism occupies a secondary position altogether. The chief object of the publication, namely, the dissemination of information, is steadily kept in

view. Sometimes, as in the case of tactics at the present time, when a controversy is being carried on, and discussions are taking place among Continental soldiers, the *Revue* performs the part of judge, so far as laying before its readers the most important arguments on either side of the dispute. As an instance of this, may be quoted the series of articles commenced in 1877, and not yet concluded, entitled "Les "Procédés Tactiques de la Guerre d'Orient." As a corollary to the original subject, the views held on the Continent with regard to the tactics of the future, and the bearing on them of intrenchments and long-range infantry fire, are now being placed before military men. In another branch of military science, viz., the training of the reserve forces, valuable information is afforded in connection with the German Landwehr. Another noticeable feature of the *Revue* are the "Nouvelles Militaires," short paragraphs, frequently giving most valuable items of intelligence.

The *Revue* in some respects resembles the Journal, which, in our days, Albert Smith used to designate as the "Amiable Pirate," inasmuch as there is not a periodical of any value in Europe which, through translations or otherwise, is not drawn on for information.

It seems extraordinary that a work of such value should have in our Army so limited a circulation; because to us, left behind as we have been during the last half-century in much that appertains to army organization and field work, it is a matter of the greatest importance to learn exactly what is being done in other armies, and to have before us the standard of improvement which the most advanced have reached, and to which our own Army can easily attain if only the nation give the word.

Napoleon, in his description of the qualifications of a General, included a knowledge of foreign military matters. The same knowledge would appear to be necessary also to the Staff who may have to assist the Generals in carrying on operations. But regimental Officers would equally profit by perusing the *Revue*. The cavalry Officer, thirsting for information as to the higher leading of his arm, and finding English literature somewhat deficient in this branch of our profession, will in the pages of the *Revue* find accounts of the methods recommended abroad, and moreover the sources whence he can obtain further particulars. Artillery, Engineers, and Infantry will, each and all, find articles treating of their branches of the Service.

It is not too much to say, that any one who steadily digests this weekly budget of foreign military information will be kept perfectly *au courant* to everything of importance which is taking place in the countries with which it deals. The subscription, post free, is only 16 francs. The *Revue* can be obtained either through any English bookseller, or direct from Paris. The name and address of the administrateur is A. de Forges, 152, Rue Montmartre.

LONSDALE HALE.