MILITARY NOTES.

BY "POM-POM."

SPECIAL RESERVE TRAINING.

The next annual training of the 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (Special Reserve) will be as follows: Recruits, assemble 11th May, and proceed to Shirehall, where they will remain until June 6th. The Battalion will assemble at Glen Parva on June 6th, and proceed to Shorncliffe for 21 days' training, returning on June 25th.

MESSING REFORM.

A recent number of the "United Service Gazette" has a note upon the question of messing reform in the army. The writer says that if there is one thing more than another where the Quartermaster-General's Department has laid itself open to public reproach it is in the reluctance it has always shown to make any attempt to improve the soldier's dietary. "To the credit of Mr. Haldane," continues the comment, "let it be said that he is the first War Minister who has shown a sincere desire to clear up the messing abuses of the army, and if he has failed it is practically hopeless to expect that any material advance will be made in this direction."

WAR MINISTER'S DIFFICULTIES

Those who have watched the course of military events generally during the past few years agree that Mr. Haldane, as War Minister, has had a difficult task to perform. Whatever critics may say about the Territorial Army scheme, they will at least give credit to Mr. Haldane for a sincere desire to improve the position of the auxiliary forces, and raise the standard of efficiency. It was no small thing to have evolved the Territorial Force, and to have carried into effect changes which were so urgently needed in our citizen army system. The Secretary of State for War pursued his work in the very teeth of every form of discouragement and opposition. He had to encounter a large body in favour of conscription, and forces which were powerful in their influence. In the end he carried the principle of voluntary service to a triumphant conclusion, and although the Territorial system is by no means perfect—and what scheme is there without some blemishes?—yet the unbiassed observer is bound to admit that it is the best military organisation upon a voluntary basis that has been established in this country.

OFFICERS' WEB EQUIPMENT.

During the recent Army Manœuvres in Wiltshire, a trial was given to an equipment of the Mills-Burrowes principle designed for the use of infantry officers. Six sets of these were issued to the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, 4th Middlesex Regiment, 2nd Lincoln Regiment, and the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers, to be worn by officers during the manœuvres, and on return to be reported upon.

The reports sent to the War Office through the Establishments and Equipment Committed at Aldershot show that the wearers were very much in favour of the new equipment, and, as a result, there is every reason to believe that in the near future all infantry officers will be provided with the new pattern web equipment for field service. The equipment is somewhat lighter in weight than that provided for the rank and file, but is similar in all other respects. The total weight of the equipment, consisting of broad waist belt, two brace straps, water bottle carrier, valise, and valise straps, sword frog, haversack, is about 4lbs., and it is so constructed that the field service portion, viz., the valise and haversack, can be detached by the simple expedient of releasing the buckles, leaving the fighting equipment complete.

LEICESTERSHIRE ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY

Orders by Major W. B. [illegible], commanding Leicestershire R.H.A., for week ending Saturday, 7th January, 1910. Leicester, [illegible] December, 1910:—

Parades.—All subaltern officers and non-commissioned officers will parade at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday next at 8 p.m., for instructions on the 15 pr. Q.F. gun, and in future on the above three days of the week for the first three weeks of January, 1911.

Recruiting will be continued on Monday and Thursday, between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. day, at the Magazine. Applicants must be able to attend the annual training in camp for 15 days.

C. R. BATES,
Captain and Adjutant,
Leicestershire R.H.A.

BATTALION ORDERS.

By Lieut.-Col. O. F. Oliver, Commanding 4th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. Leicester, 29th December, 1910.

Officers for duty for the week ending Sunday, January 8th, 1911: Captain A. C. Cooper and Lieut. H. J. [illegible]son.

Recruiting for the Battalion will be continued on Monday and Friday nights from 7 to 9 p.m.

A lecture will be given by the Adjutant on "The use of machine guns," in the officers-room, The Magazine, on Thursday, January 5th, 1911, at 8 p.m. All officers and colour-sergeants are requested to attend.

(Signed) R. H. OLIVIER,
Captain and Adjutant,
4th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment,

NORTH MIDLAND MOUNTED BRIGADE, T. AND S. COLUMN,

A. S. C.

Orders for the week ending 7th January, 1911, by Captain T. S. Taylor, commanding. Leicester, 30th December, 1910.

Rifles.—Any old pattern rifles now in the possession of N.C.O.'s, and men must be returned to store not later than 8 p.m. on Thursday next, 5th January, 1911, as these arms have to be returned to the Ordnance officer, York, immediately.

(Signed) T. S. TAYLOR,
Captain,
O.C.N.M.M. Bde., T. and S. Column.

LINCOLN AND LEICESTER BRIGADE COMPANY,

ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

Orders for week ending Saturday, 7th January, 1911:—

Promotion.—The following extract from the "London Gazette," dated 9-12-10, is published for information:—Linc. and Leicester Bde. Company, A.S.C., Lieut. [illegible] Read to be captain. Dated 1st October, 1910.

Discharge.—No. 2083 Pte. Driver T. W. Jarman, joined the Regular Army on the 6-12-1910, and is struck off the strength of this unit accordingly.

Rifles.—N.C.O.'s and men still in possession of the old pattern rifle must return them to store, without fail, by 8 p.m. on Thursday next, 5th January, 1911, at the Magazine, Leicester, or to S.S.M. Tomlinson, [illegible]

SWIMMING NOTES.

By "AMPHIBIAN."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE A.S.A., MIDLAND DISTRICT.

The review of swimming during 1910, from an English, a Midland District, and a Leicester point of view in turn, presents in each of its aspects something that is satisfactory and something that is a little disappointing. Taking the worst first, and finishing with it, while the art of natation in the United Kingdom continues to make greater and greater progress, British pre-eminence has again been overthrown. As regards championship races, the old country has had its very worst year. Frank Beaurepaire, one of the best swimmers the Colonies have sent us, spent the summer in England, and may say, like the Roman egoist—though "Bogey" is the essence of modesty himself—Veni, Vidi, Vici. With the solitary exception of the long distance race, for which he did not enter, he has swept the board of all the prizes that can be won without specialising.

By capturing all the titles from the 100 yards to the one mile, Beaurepaire has set up a record for modern times which will probably endure. He has not equalled the performance of J. H. Tyers, who, in the early nineties, carried off all these titles and the long distance one to boot, but swimming has advanced so greatly since those days that success all round is never likely to rest with another individual. We may some day see a second man who combines, as Beaurepaire does so rarely, wonderful sprinting powers with the stamina and steadiness requisite for the longer races, and for the sake of our English pride, I hope he will be an Englishman. But he will have to be a wonderful swimmer to equal the lion-like young Australian. Of course, had Daniels competed in the 100 yards championship, Beaurepaire would only have been second; even Goltan de Halmar might have beaten him; but these men are more or less sprinters, and cannot be compared to the Australian for all-round brilliance.

It boots not to discuss now what Sydney Battersby, our English champion, might have done had not an unfortunate succession of illnesses and mishaps interfered with his training at its most important pitch. He might have won certain titles, or he might not. His best times are certainly faster than some of those Beaurepaire recorded, but we cannot tell if the Australian swam himself right out. Moreover, it was obvious that his spurt at the finish was beyond Battersby's power of response. Splendid and graceful swimmer though the Southport man is, he met his master this summer. Possibly there is more scope for advancement in him than the other great distance swimmer of the moment, but that point and its sequel only time can decide. I am not one of those who view the departure of a championship as an unfailing, irrefutable sign of national decadence, though. The United Kingdom, the parent of the sport, cannot always hold the pride of place in everything, and I should be sorry to see the day when we became Yankee business-men in our views of sporting encounters. Naturally we prefer our own countryman to win; but we can still compliment Beaurepaire as sportsmen should do, and if we hope for Battersby to recover the laurels some day, do so only with the proviso that he should be clearly the better of two very brilliant swimmers.

Of other general remarks, I would point out that the back stroke and breast stroke championships left England for the first time since their institution, but that was only because in the first F.A. Unwin had rather spoilt his special art by swimming in the straightaway events, and because Courtman did not defend his title in the other. Miss Jennie Fletcher, who has not enjoyed very good health this year, lost the Ladies' 100 yards to Miss Irene Steer, of Cardiff, but may regain the title, which she had held for four years. Her record still remains, and is the only one now on the books that a Leicester swimmer put up, for Battersby beat Jarvis's best time for the long distance. While on the point of records I should mention that fewer have been beaten than usual this season, and it seems we are approaching something like finality in regard to times. Record-breaking, until some fresh and improved stroke is discovered, if ever it is, or some exceptional swimmer arrives, will not be such a commonplace affair in the future.

For the Midland District I have to say that it is still holding its own as second only to the populous Southern District in numbers, and only to the Northern District, with its Lancashire champions, in the ability of its prowest members. The cultivation and promotion of swimming and the sister-art of life-saving is being sedulously fostered, and the work is not without the grateful reward of immediate efficacy and promise of still greater prosperity in the future. Leicester is still the paramount centre as regards the ability of its representatives. I could wish that an undercurrent of jealousy were not so evident in one or two quarters. No such spirit should be possible in sport, but in this respect theory and practice are at even more than their usual variance.

Leicester, for the first time in many years, has no English championship. J. A. Jarvis began the record—Sam Greasley seven years before had gained Leicester its first national title—and Miss Fletcher continued it. This summer she failed, and though the Leicester club made a great effort to secure the national team-swimming championship, they were just beaten, and so faded away the last chance. Stay, though, it may not be official, but by being the first lady home in the Through-London swim Miss Olive Carson must be recognised as champion of the distance swimmers of the fair sex. In other respects Leicester swimming has flourished. Walter Kell has had a grand season in the Midland championship, swimming perhaps the best race of his life in the 100 yards to beat the holder (C. C. Stimson), and he has to be complimented on winning all four men's events. Miss Fletcher retains the ladies' title, and the Leicester S.C. the

ROUND THE GOLF LINKS.

BY "THE CLEEK."

RETROSPECTIVE.

By the time these lines appear in print we shall be within a few hours of 1911, and I should like, before it departs, to review very briefly a few of the principal golfing events of the year. Each succeeding year demonstrates the progress of the Royal and Ancient game. In all the history of sports and pastimes I do not think any parallel can be found to golf. It has claimed the classes and the masses for its own; rich and poor alike have succumbed to the charm. The prophets, Cecil Barcroft wrote in the "World of Golf," who have again and again told us that golf was but the mere craze of the day—a pastime made fashionable, and therefore popular, because indulged in by men of note, have proved false indeed. Among the golfers who took up the game for fashion's sake, there have been few secessions, though fashions are evanescent.

The game fascinates chiefly because no other sport or pastime combines to so great a degree skill and nature—nature to be conquered by skill. A game which affords great scope for skill, which advantages the young and lusty, and yet can be thoroughly enjoyed by those who have reached the three-score and ten years, must progress.

Progressed it has in Leicester and county during 1910. And next year it will again progress still more. For proof of this we have not far to seek. In the early months of the year the sporting 9-hole course was opened at Kirby Muxloe, and later on the Western Park links gave the working-men of Leicester the opportunity for which they had long waited.

LOCAL CHAMPIONS.

The Leicestershire Club has increased in popularity during the year, and the course has been kept in splendid condition by Mr. Smith. The competitions held under the auspices of the club secured numerous entries, and the tourneys were exceedingly keenly contested. The Leicestershire Club are the county champions for the year, Birstall and Narborough following the Stoughton-road team for the vases offered by the Leicestershire and Rutland Union. For the individual championship, it will be remembered a remarkable performance was accomplished by Mr. M. E. Whitehead, of the Leicestershire Club. After a tie with Mr. Percy Harrison, of Birstall, a replay took place over a medal round of 36 holes, and Mr. Whitehead eventually won by 12 strokes. In the morning he went round the Leicestershire Club's course in 70, which is the amateur record for the course in a competition.

The Hewitt Cup, presented by Mr. F. Hewitt, J.P., for competition amongst the members of the Kirby Muxloe Club, was won by Mr. T. Hollis, who defeated Mr. R. Johnson in the final round by 9 and 8. This club, I am pleased to know, has met with unbounded success during the year.

The Midland Ladies' Championship was played at Hollinwell, but the play for the individual prizes was spoilt by a heavy storm. Miss Hemmingway, of the Notts Club, won the championship and gold medal, with an aggregate of 181, while Miss Warner, of Leicester, was awarded a silver medal for second place with a total of 185.

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.

Instituted in the year 1860, the Open Championship has always brought out the best golfers of the year. As every golfer knows, James Braid won the competition at St. Andrews in June last. After half the players had completed the first round in the race on the opening day, the Green Committee had to abandon the day's play and cancel all the scores which had been made. The cause of this sensational decision was an extraordinary thunderstorm which swept the links shortly after one o'clock. James Braid, the ultimate winner, accomplished a marvellous achievement. He went out in the rain, and fought on through the blinding thunderstorm. Absolutely unruffled, he tackled every difficulty, and with marvellous courage overcame the seemingly impossible.

Everyone will remember the sensation caused by William Smith, the Mexican champion, who, at the close of the second day's play, returned a score of 71, but he fell away as completely the following day, and James Braid won the Jubilee contest with an aggregate of 299. Alex. Herd finished second, and George Duncan third.

THE AMATEUR.

Mr. John Ball won the semi-jubilee contest in the amateur championship at Hoylake. His victory over Mr. C. C. Aylmer (Sidmouth), in the final was the largest ever recorded in the history of the championship, and as it was the first final to be settled by double figures, it furnished a marvellous tribute to the merits of his game—a game which placed him at the head of the golfing world so far back as 1888. The record of Mr. Ball is too well known to need any reference here. Suffice to say that it was the seventh success, and that no other golfer, living or dead, had won the cup more than twice, is but to mention facts of common knowledge. But the personality of such a golfer has its effect on the game at large, and Mr. John Ball is as worthy a head-piece of the game as was the late old Tom Morris.

THE LADIES.

Miss E. Grant-Suttie, of the Sunningdale Club, is the lady golf champion of the year, defeating Miss Moore, of Olton, in the final by 6 up and 4 to play.

Other important golf items of the year are the victory of England over Scotland in the amateur international match, and the remarkable success of Sherlock, which stamp him as the most successful professional golfer of the year. Braid won the championship, but Sherlock won all the four events next in importance. Mr. Lionel Munn won premier honours in Ireland.

LEADING AMATEURS OF AMERICA.

The opinions of leading authorities on golf in America as to the premier amateur golfers in the States, has just been taken by the "Golfers' Magazine." The list presented is figured out on a percentage basis of all replies received, thus making it a consensus of opinion, instead of the views of one individual only. The first place has unanimously been given to Mr. Charles Evans, jun., of Edgewater, whose winning of the Western Open Championship from a field which included many of the leading professionals in the States, was a great achievement.

Mr. Evans was beaten in the semi-final of the American Amateur Championship, but he was a prolific winner in open tournaments. Mr. W. C. Fownes, jun., of Oakmont, the American champion, is placed second, and Mason Phelps, Midlothian, third. Mr. Walter Travis, who won the British Amateur Championship in 1904, and has won the American Championship on three occasions, is rated as sixth, and Mr. Eben Byers, Allegheny, American champion, 1906, occupies the fourteenth position.

HOCKEY NOTES.

BY THE LEFT HALF.

NO LOCAL NEWS.

The One in Authority having been prevailed upon to grant an extended leave, and the writer having, therefore, removed himself far from Leicester and its hockey for upwards of a week, he has been quite unable to see or hear anything of what few local games there have been in that time, and, for this reason, must of necessity turn to topics other than the usual criticism of the previous Saturday's matches for this week's notes. First of these that comes to mind is

THE ARMY TOURNAMENT.

Those who, like myself, are ever on the look-out in their daily paper for items of interest in connection with their favourite game, will no doubt have noticed that in two, at least, of the matches recently played in the first round of the Army Tournament, players have had to be removed to hospital suffering from serious injuries received during the game. Captain Marks, of the A.S.C., and Sergeant Pepper, of the 1st Leicesters, were both badly damaged.

These repeated accidents—and there were several of a like character last season—are a strong argument against the allowing of a cup competition, and at once opens up the question as to whether the tournament should continue to receive the sanction of the Hockey Association. The organising of the tournament was a distinct change of purpose from the rules of the Hockey Association, and at its inauguration the people at headquarters were strongly criticised for countenancing it.

THE DANGER OF CUP MATCHES.

It cannot be gainsaid that a competition of any kind, there then being more than the actual result of the game at hazard, is liable to develop an immoderate keenness, which in hockey is apt to evoke into rough and dangerous play. If such is allowed to go on unchecked, it will eventually threaten the good name for cleanness the game at present has. It is very obvious that the implements—a stick and a hard ball—unless used with discretion, and with scrupulous fairness, lend themselves to dangerous and, it may be, pernicious methods. That there is a feeling in the Army Association itself that the game in the service would be better without the tournament, is evident by the decrease in the number of entries for this season's competition—(only twenty-seven in all)—and also that a rule has been passed that each team competing must play at least five officers. The inference to be drawn from this latter is that the rank and file, speaking generally, of course, do not thoroughly appreciate the true spirit of the game. In the opinion of the majority the time has arrived when the Hockey Association should very seriously re-consider the question of the Army Tournament, and many think, too, that ere long it will be discontinued. For my own part, I am firmly convinced that the game would be far better without anything in the nature of a competition, either cup or league tourney.

THE LIGHT BLUES.

When referring to news from Oxford, in October last, I said I hoped shortly to hear something as regards Cambridge, having just written to a friend there for information. The good man has just replied in person! What a correspondent for an up-to-date paper he will make, to be sure!

Naturally, he says that the Light Blues are going to win the inter-'Varsity match, which is to be played at Beckenham on February 22. As is only to be expected, he is full of the doings and wonderful prowess of S. H. Saville, the Fresher from Marlborough; and, by the way, what wonderful hockey players the Marlburians are. Truly is it said that Marlborough produces a higher standard of play, and a more finished style than any other source. Saville, it is declared, will develop into a second Shoveller (but, surely, there can only be one "Shove.") He is a star of the first order, and has proved to be a most prolific scorer, having only failed in one 'Varsity match to notch at least one goal. He is the chosen inside-right for the Eastern Counties against the North, but he can scarcely hope to displace the great S. H. S., the finest of all insides, from the England eleven. The captain, S. H. Stevens, is an exceptionally clever centre-half, and another of the halves is H. M. Robinson, brother of the late twin University captains and internationals, L. M. and J. Y. Robinson. One of last year's halves, A. C. Bellerby, has gone to full-back, where he has been playing a very clever game. A. H. Vann, brother of our own Rev. B. W., has been a dashing member of a fast and convincing forward line.

CAMBRIDGE FAVOURITES.

Cambridge certainly appear to have a very strong side, and at present are favourites for the annual struggle, but now that football no longer has claims on certain players, Oxford should be able to field a stronger eleven, and it is by no means unlikely that they will repeat the victories of 1910 and 1909. It may not be generally known, and consequently be of interest to some, that there is an inter-college league, of three divisions, consisting of some twenty clubs, at Cambridge, and it is claimed that the formation of this league has much to do with the popularity of hockey during the Lent term. This is a moot point though I hardly see the necessity for its existence myself. The sister 'Varsity, by the way, is without any such League.

LOOKING FORWARD.

With the advent of a new year, and the commencement of the second half of the season, the important matches begin, and during the next two months ten inter-divisionals are down for decision, the programme opening next Saturday at Weston-super-Mare, where the West will oppose the Midlands, and concluding at Manchester on March 4 with the final trial of North v. South. There are doubtless several new aspirants to fame, all anxious to prove the necessity of their being included in the England eleven, but it is doubtful if there will be many changes from last year's team for the opening match against Wales, at Llandudno, on March 18.

THE GOAL-GETTERS.

CLUB GO[illegible]

What the Indoo[illegible] Doing

(BY "THE CLUB[illegible]

COUNTY CHESS.

THE TOURNAMENT.

WHIST AT HOME.

LEICESTER WHIST [illegible]

ODDFELLOWS' WHI[illegible]

ST. JOHN AMBUL[illegible]