

SOCIAL LIFE IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

BY A BRITISH OFFICER.

Second Paper.

IN my last article space did not allow me to describe in any detail the life of the young cavalry officer, though the subject of cavalry life was dealt with to a certain extent, the experiences of the "last joined" being touched on, and some allusion made to the part played by the ladies of the regiment in the social life of its officers.

The daily life of the cavalry officer when he has got through the training in the elementary part of his profession I have not yet described, and I will now endeavor to repair this omission. In some respects my task is not an easy one, as the daily life of the officer naturally varies with his surroundings, which, in their turn, depend to a considerable extent on the station in which he happens for the time being to be quartered, and also to a certain extent on the regiment to which he happens to belong. Some of the home stations of our cavalry are unfortunately large towns, such as Dublin and Leeds, and in these places the opportunities for indulging in field sports are very limited, and the sporting tastes of the majority of the officers can only be gratified at considerable expense. However, whatever difficulties are in the way, hunting during the winter months will be found to take up the greater part of the spare time of the younger men, at any rate, while nearly all shooting parties in the neighborhood will be usually largely recruited from the nearest cavalry barracks; and in the summer it is possible at most stations to get a certain amount of polo, though the time devoted to this game will depend in great measure on the importance attached to it in the regiment. Some regiments, notably the 10th Hussars, the 13th Hussars, and the 9th Lancers, are great polo regiments, usually hotly contesting the last stages of the inter-regimental tournament; and the amount of time and trouble devoted to the practice of the game in these corps, to say nothing of the very large sums spent on the purchase of ponies, would be almost incredible to many civilians. Polo is, under any circumstances, an expensive game, but when the goal in view is the

winning of the above-mentioned tournament, it is of the greatest importance to secure the best possible mounts, almost regardless of cost. In a good polo pony certain qualities difficult to find in combination are of very great importance. To commence with, he must not be more than 14.2 hands in height; he must be very fast, and, moreover, be able to jump off at full speed at the shortest notice; this great pace will rarely be found in any but practically thoroughbred ponies, and animals of this class are usually headstrong and impetuous; but the polo pony must be temperate and handy, though full of courage, and must be able to carry from twelve to fourteen stone, or even more. It is obvious that the man who desires to possess a number of ponies combining all these good qualities must own a well-filled purse, as he will often have to give two or three hundred guineas for the animal he covets; and excellent training in pluck and horsemanship as the game affords to the cavalry soldier, it is a question whether the extravagance entailed thereby, and the consequent loss to the service of many promising young officers, is not almost too heavy a price to pay for the incomparable seat and dashing horsemanship with which the "king of games" rewards its votaries.

Leaving those regiments in which polo furnishes the chief topic of conversation and the most engrossing subject of interest to all ranks during the summer months, we shall find that the game is played in every cavalry regiment to a greater or less extent, the cost of the game being kept within bounds by the adoption of the "club" system. By this system the funds for the purchase and maintenance of ponies are provided by subscription among all the officers, whether they play the game or not, and during the winter months any officer wanting a pony for a hack or a trapper can have one from the club simply by paying the cost of his keep. The funds of the club are managed by a committee of the officers, to one or two of whom is intrusted the replacing of ponies cast for various reasons. Of course regiments de-



A CANNON AT POLO.

pending on the club system are hardly likely to pay the enormous sums necessary to get hold of the speediest and highest-class ponies, and hence are seriously handicapped in an attempt to win the inter-regimental cup; but in spite of this drawback the game is just as useful as the faster tournament game in teaching "hands" and horsemanship, and the young soldier who has graduated in the polo-field will rarely come off second best in a contest for supremacy with an unruly horse. Moreover, even in regiments where the "club" system is adopted, good management often provides the very best ponies. The raw material is cheaply purchased, and where the agent of the corps possesses patience and good judgment, care in training develops the necessary qualities. Besides polo, cricket and racquets take a leading place among the summer amusements of the cavalry officer; in fact, the "pair" sent up by that well-known cavalry regiment the 12th Lancers are the present holders of the Racquets Challenge Cup open to the whole army.

But other amusements, less innocent in some respects than the games I have been discussing, offer very powerful attractions to a large proportion of officers. The turf is a great English institution, and has its adherents among every class of society in the three kingdoms, so it is hardly to be wondered at that men who live in a society in which horseflesh furnishes one of the principal topics of conversation should feel themselves irresistibly drawn into the vortex of racing. The majority content themselves with the rôle of spectators, but some cannot thus satisfy their love of sport and their craving for excitement, and soon set up studs of their own, and in many cases devote themselves conscientiously to an endeavor to emulate the prowess in the pigskin of the best professional jockeys. In the pursuit of this aim some, but not many, have had notable success; in fact, it is only a couple of years since the winner of the Grand National was ridden by a cavalry subaltern on full pay. In some societies feats of this kind would be regarded with an attitude of mild condemnation, or of doubtful approbation at the best; but those who know the courage, readiness of resource, self-denial, and continuous hard work necessary before a success of this kind can be hoped for, are little likely to undervalue the steeple-chase course as a training-

school for the young soldier. The gallant Roddy Owen, who, by-the-bye, was an infantry officer, proved that the coolness and courage which had gained him such high honors on the race-course, making his name in very deed a household word, were equally available when the opportunity came for employing them in the service of his country, and eminent soldiers and statesmen soon recognized a kindred spirit in the hero of Aintree and Sandown. On active service, in the moment of imminent danger and great and sudden emergency, the self-reliance and quickness of resolution which are indispensable to the successful steeple-chase rider cannot fail to be of the utmost value to the soldier, consequently I hope that the day is far distant when the amateur jock will be looked upon with disfavor by his military superiors. For the mere spectators the case is different; many of these go racing for many years without coming to grief; but others, less cool-headed, succumb to the fascination of the betting-ring, which, alas, every year claims a toll—though, happily, yearly a decreasing one—from the ranks of our cavalry. As is the case in the regiments composing the Household Brigade, annual "point-to-point" and steeple-chase meetings are held by each cavalry regiment, at the latter function the events usually consisting of the Regimental Challenge Cup, the Subalterns' Cup, and probably a race for some other trophy, the meeting concluding with a race for the farmers or the members of the local hunt. At these meetings the latent talent of the embryo jockey is probably first discovered, and a lad who is found to be the happy possessor of nerve, dash, and judgment, in addition to a good seat and hands, will not be long without offers of mounts from his brother officers, which will soon make his name familiar to the racing world.

Turning from racing and other amusements to what may be termed the interior economy of the mess, the visitor to the institution will probably be struck in the first place by the cleverness with which all the furniture is designed with a view to portability as well as comfort. The necessity for this is obvious, when one reflects that a regiment is rarely left longer than a year or two at the outside in the same station, and that the furniture supplied by a paternal government consists only of a number of Windsor chairs, and



BUYING ARAB HORSES.

a dining-table and sideboard of Spartan simplicity. Carpets, curtains, mirrors, easy-chairs, sofas, occasional tables, book-cases, pictures, etc., all have to be moved about from one station to another at the expense of the corps, which also has to provide the whole of the glass, cutlery, table-linen, etc., required by its members, in addition to the silver mess plate, which is generally exceedingly handsome, and, as a rule, contains many trophies won on the turf or on the rifle-range, as well as the fine pieces of plate presented at different times by individual officers, or purchased out of the funds of the corps.

The care and cleaning of this plate, often of the value of over a thousand pounds, are in themselves sufficient responsibility for one man—as a general rule a private belonging to the regiment, who performs practically no military duty, but devotes his time to the care of the silver committed to him. The whole of this silver is packed in cases specially made to fit each article when the regiment is on the move, and when in quarters is stored in a room in the mess buildings, in which room is placed the bed of the “silver-man” responsible for its safe custody.

Among social functions the weekly guest-night holds a leading place, and it may be of interest if I shortly describe one of these festive occasions. To commence with, it is *de rigueur* in every well-ordered regiment that every officer, whether married or single, present with the regiment should dine at mess on guest-nights, and the party is swollen both by the private friends of the officers and by a sprinkling of the local notabilities asked as guests of the mess. On their arrival the guests are received by their own private hosts and by the commanding officer of the regiment in the anteroom, from which a move is made to the mess-room when dinner is announced, the company in many regiments moving to their seats to the air of “The Roast Beef of Old England,” discoursed by the band of the corps posted in a gallery or out-building adjoining the dining-room. On the dining-table and the sideboard the mess plate is displayed in all its gleaming splendor, the historical associations connected with many of the principal pieces possibly calling forth a flow of reminiscence from the senior officers and any old members of the regiment who may happen to be present, which cannot fail to have a peculiar fasci-

nation for the interested civilian guest. In a conspicuous place, if dining at an infantry mess, will be seen displayed the colors of the battalion, in many cases the silk sadly defaced and tattered by the storms of many continents, the honored emblems bearing on their folds the record of many gallant deeds, well calculated to fire the blood of youth or to quicken the slackening pulse of the old.

A selection of music is played during dinner by the band of the regiment, the programme concluding with the regimental march blending into “God save the Queen,” or, in some regiments, “Rule Britannia.” After the dessert has been placed on the table, the wine is circulated, and, all glasses being filled, the officer sitting as president rises from his chair, and raising his glass, calls out, “Mr. Vice-President, the Queen”; on this all rise, glasses in hand; the young officer sitting as vice-president gives the toast, “Gentlemen, the Queen”; the band, which has been on the lookout for a signal from the mess sergeant, crashes out the national anthem, and the health of the sovereign, drunk with enthusiasm, ends the brief ceremony, the flow of chaff, laughter, and conversation, momentarily interrupted, bursting forth afresh. Till the wine has been once round the table after dinner no officer is permitted to leave the room, except by permission of the president—a permission rarely granted on guest-nights except to the orderly officer, who has to collect reports at tattoo and see lights out in barracks. The innocent breach of this rule by newly joined officers is usually punished by a fine, the offender having to stand champagne to all the mess. Fines of this nature are rather an institution in the service, the acts leading to their infliction differing in different regiments, but in all cases the youngster must walk warily at first, or he will find himself with a very swollen wine bill at the end of the month. Fines are usually inflicted for such causes as the following: the drawing of a sword in the premises of the mess, parting company with one's horse on parade or in the school, dropping one's cap under similar circumstances, wearing the belt for the first time as orderly officer, etc.; while other incidents, such as promotion, or the winning of a race, are regarded as legitimate reasons for standing champagne. Before the stage of coffee and cigars is

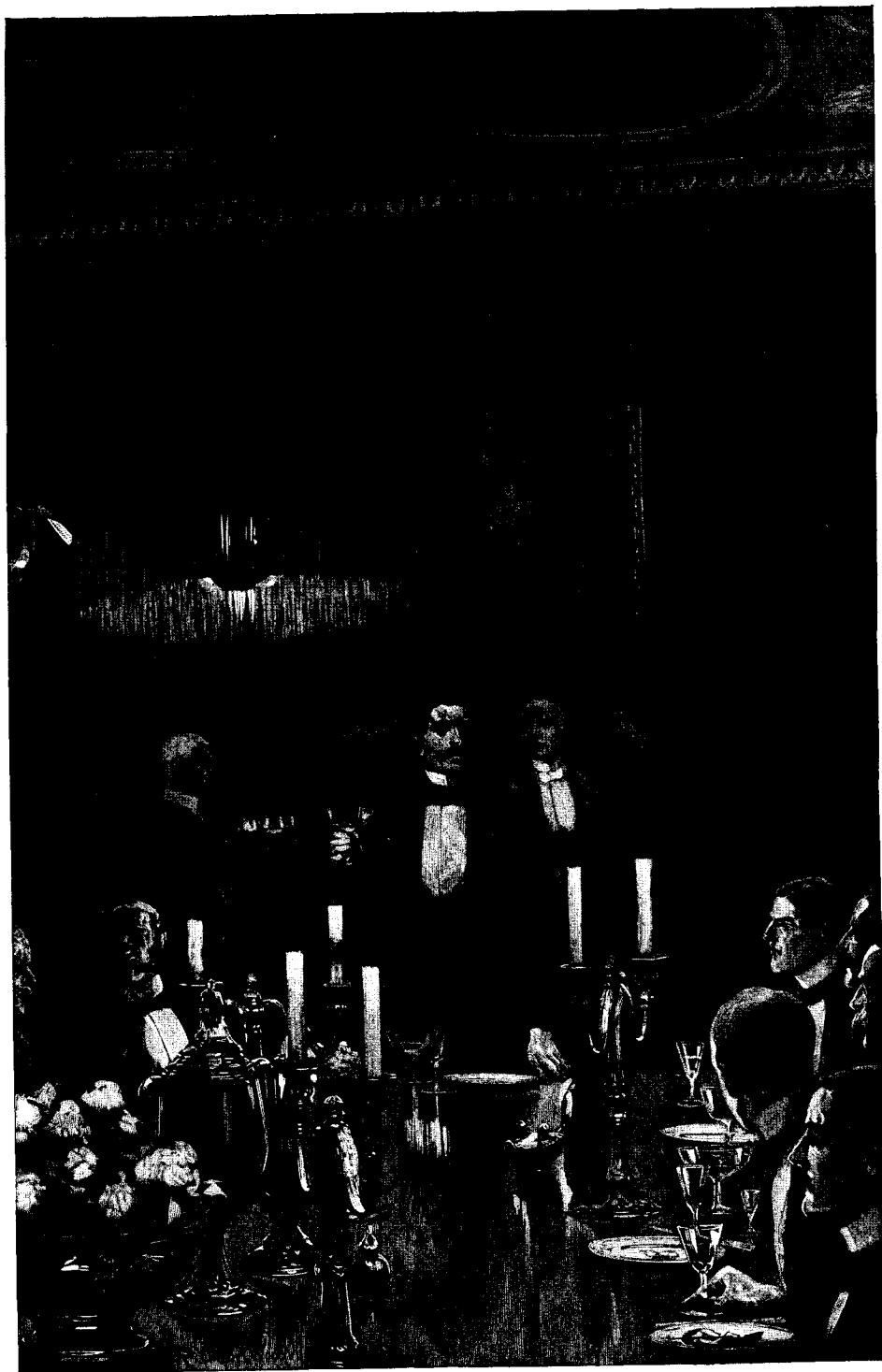
reached, to return to our guest-night dinner, the band-master is invited into the room to join the officers in a glass of wine, a place being laid for him on the right hand of the president; and this little ceremony over, an adjournment is soon made to the anteroom or billiard-room, and tables are usually made up for whist or less serious games, till the departure of the guests and seniors is a signal for a certain amount of horse-play and "ruxing," which, it must be admitted, is occasionally carried rather to an excess. Sometimes a mock court martial is assembled for the trial of a subaltern for some imaginary crime, a trial conducted with all the form and ceremony of the real article, with the exception that the finding is invariably "guilty," and that there is a certain monotony about the sentences, which usually end in the immersing of the culprit, uniform and all, in the nearest horse-trough. Woe betide any unfortunate youth who is unwary enough to go to bed early when one of these orgies is in progress. When his absence is detected, an escort of subalterns will be warned, the delinquent will be fetched unceremoniously into the mess, and will be lucky to escape with a fine of a dozen of champagne. The frequency of the occasions on which this horse-play goes on will be found to vary very much with regiments. In some corps the high spirits of the subalterns lead to a good deal of noise almost every night, while in others it is only on some special occasions, such as the recurrence of some anniversary specially honored in the regiment, that the juniors break out in the fashion above described. Needless to say, regiments of the latter type are the more comfortable to live in, and also the less likely to acquire a brief but unenviable notoriety in consequence of overstepping the bounds of decorum in an unfortunate direction during one of these saturnalia.

I will now endeavor to describe the *ménage* maintained by the mess of a cavalry or infantry regiment serving at home. The cook is naturally a person of the first importance, and is usually a man, often a Frenchman, in receipt of wages varying from £60 to £100 a year; occasionally, especially in Ireland, where regiments are often split up into several detachments, a woman cook is employed from motives of economy, but in any case every effort is made to obtain the services

of an artist in his or her profession. To assist the cook in the "fatigue" duties of the kitchen two men are generally provided from the ranks of the regiment—one, the "kitchen-man," corresponds to the kitchen-maid of civilian life, and the other, the "delf-man," takes the place of the scullery-maid. In the upstairs department the chief place is filled by the mess sergeant, who performs the same duties as fall to a confidential butler in civil life, in addition to other duties which are chiefly concerned with arranging, in concert with the mess president, the daily *menu* of the dinner. Under the sergeant the ordinary duties of waiters are carried out by two or three soldiers under a corporal, who are dressed in livery, often clean-shaved in defiance of regulations, and who, though at first probably rather uncouth and clumsy, yet, being selected for their smartness, soon pick up the ways of the professional footman, and make excellent servants. The above-mentioned staff are obviously unequal to the task of waiting on a large number at dinner, consequently a roster is kept by the mess sergeant of the officers' soldier-servants, and the number required are warned for duty by the mess corporal, usually for a week at a time.

All these servants are provided with the livery of the corps by their masters, and naturally wear it at mess; but their skill as waiters is rarely equal to the smartness of their appearance, and very amusing are the tales of their blunders to be heard in every regiment.

The general management of the mess is intrusted to a committee of the officers, as a rule consisting of a major, or captain, and two subalterns, each of the latter being made responsible for some special department, such as the wine or the catering, while the president exercises a general supervision. In a catering mess—that is to say, in a mess where the officers provide their own food, and do not hand everything over to a contractor—the office of mess president is no sinecure, and the comfort and mode of life of the officers as a body are very much in his hands. By Queen's Regulations the daily expenses of living in a mess (for food alone) are not supposed to exceed four shillings, and if the mess president is a good one, and the number of dining members considerable, this sum usually suffices. If not, there are numerous ways



"GENTLEMEN, THE QUEEN."

of keeping within the letter of the law while breaking it in spirit, which do not require to be divulged.

But the expense of the actual messing is only a small fraction of the expenses to which the members of a mess are liable: subscriptions to the polo team, the regimental coach, the regimental hounds—in cases where hounds are kept—the race fund, added to the expenses of maintaining the mess itself, providing servants' liveries, newspapers, stationery, repairs to glass and china, etc., swell the total very often into quite a large sum. Officers above the rank of lieutenant have, in addition, to pay for the maintenance of the regimental band, towards which the government only subscribes a certain number of trumpets and bugles and a contribution to the salary of the band-master, leaving the cost of the purchase and repair of instruments, the payment of extra bandmen, etc., to be borne entirely by the officers of the corps. The expense of the entertainments which are expected from the officers of her Majesty's regiments, both horse and foot, by the civilian population among whom they are quartered forms in many cases a heavy additional tax on the purses of the officers, especially of the seniors, as these are subscribed for according to rank—the major, whose dancing days are possibly over, having to pay about three times the amount contributed by the subaltern, at whose instigation the ball may have been given, and who dances conscientiously through every item on the programme. One consequence of this perhaps salutary regulation is that the seniors are more inclined to check than to encourage extravagant entertainments. In some corps an "entertainment fund" is maintained, to which all officers subscribe a day's pay, or some similar sum, monthly: the object of this fund is to avoid heavy calls on the purses of the officers, and it is no doubt a very useful institution.

It would be impossible to quit the subject of the social life of the British officer without alluding to the peculiarities of the soldier-servant, in whose hands the comfort of his master lies to a very considerable extent. In the days of long service little or no difficulty was experienced in obtaining and retaining the services of a well-trained and experienced servant, who usually identified himself

with the fortunes of his master to an extent rarely met with in civil life, adding also to the usual qualifications of the valet such valuable accomplishments as the power of being able to send up a very fair dinner if called on to cook in an emergency, and sufficient skill as an armorer to repair and keep in order his master's fowling-pieces, while he very frequently was expert enough as a tailor to be able to keep his master's wardrobe in order, sewing on his buttons, and mending his shirts with all the neatness of an accomplished seamstress. Alas! the soldier-servant of this type has vanished, never, I fear, to return. His place has been taken by a very inferior article. The foreign draft annually strips the regiment of all its most seasoned men, thus restricting the officer's choice to the young soldiers who have completed their drills and are not desirous of promotion to the non-commissioned ranks. For many years this state of things has existed in the infantry of the line; a recent order is responsible for the introduction of the evils of the annual foreign draft into the cavalry. The young soldier-servant, therefore, who very probably has never entered a gentleman's room before, has to be taught the very rudiments of his new vocation, with the result that the domestic experiences of his master are likely for some little time to contain more of the unexpected than is either comfortable or desirable. His clothes are folded in the weird manner taught in the barrack-room; his boots are varnished according to the light of nature; his hunting-breeches are balled with such zeal that their wearer is enveloped in clouds of white dust whenever he moves; and his tops, when they have left the hands of this artist, resemble a *chef-d'œuvre* by a painter of the impressionist school. Time and patience will overcome all these difficulties; but the man will hardly have got into his master's ways before the temptations of deferred pay allure him to the reserve, and the task of teaching his successor has to be commenced *de novo*. Yes, I am solemnly convinced that the soldier-servant as a type of the skilled and faithful retainer is a fraud, which is due not to any degeneration in the individual, but to the entire disappearance of the conditions which called his prototype into existence.

What I have written above with reference to the life of the cavalry officer will apply in a great measure to that of the officer of infantry as well, with the exception that, owing to his means being usually considerably more limited, the latter is unable to take part as freely as he would like in the sports of hunting and racing, and the costly game of polo, which come as a matter of course to his more richly endowed brother officer. The sporting foot-soldier, having no point-to-point to win in his own regiment, consoles himself by having a cut in at the races of the local hunt, and, if a light weight and keen on polo, will manage to see a good deal of hunting from the backs of the game little ponies he has played all the summer. He must console himself with the reflection that every lot has its compensations, and if he cannot break himself by owning race-horses, he is quite at liberty to lose his money in backing the horses belonging to wealthier men. Taking the soldier all round, the sporting blood flows hotly through his veins, and the man who cannot afford to gratify his tastes to the full at home, will find little difficulty in getting transferred to a battalion in India, the poor sportsman's paradise.

In India the life of the young officer is very different from that to which he has been used at home. In the first place, he cannot fail to realize that in India he is the representative of a conquering race, which holds by the sword the possessions which the sword has won. The moral aspect of this situation cannot but have a strong effect in moulding the character of the young soldier, even if in the humblest grade, and doubtless contributes largely to acquiring the habit of command and the air of authority which so soon become part of the nature of the British soldier in the East. The trooper will hardly have been brought to an anchor before she will be invaded by swarms of natives in their picturesque dresses, armed with "chits," or letters of recommendation from previous masters, all anxious to enter the service of the new-comer. If well advised, the novice will be exceedingly chary of engaging one of these gentry, who are quite likely to desert him on his journey up country at the first favorable opportunity, taking with them as much as they can conveniently carry away of their new master's effects. If the young soldier is on his way to join

a British or Queen's regiment, so called in contradistinction to the native regiments in the Indian army, his future brother officers will probably have sent a reliable man to meet him and conduct him to his new corps, and under the protection of this individual his journey up country, whether by "dâk" or rail, will probably be made with the greatest comfort possible under the circumstances. The ordinary life in India, and the peculiarities of travel in that country, have been already made so familiar to the world at large that it is not my intention to allude to anything with which the ordinary reader or traveller is likely to be already familiar. Into the *vie intime* of the soldier the enterprising globe-trotter has not yet succeeded in penetrating, and it is with peculiarities in which it differs from the life of the civilian that I now propose to deal.

In his regiment at home the officer is accustomed to living in government quarters, to being waited on by a soldier-servant, and to being dependent for the comforts of his existence on a mess occupying a portion of the barracks built solely for that purpose. In India he will find these conditions, as a rule, non-existent. In very few places are there officers' quarters owned by government; the rule is to find the officers of a regiment occupying bungalows, rented from a private individual, in the neighborhood of the lines of the regiment, while the mess buildings will, as a rule, be similarly rented by the mess as a whole. In most cases the officers will go shares in bungalows, two or more officers to each house, and the younger ones will often have many of their servants in common, though each will, of course, keep a bearer or butler, the title varying with the presidency in which he is serving, exclusively for his own service. In Bengal, in addition, it is usual for each officer to keep a khitmutgar, whose duty it is to wait on his master, and on his master alone, at mess and when dining out. The service of a dinner by these well-trained and silent servitors, moving noiselessly in their bare feet, is as good as can be met with anywhere in the world, and is apt to spoil the man accustomed to it for the rougher ministrations of the home-grown mess waiter.

Life in most parts of India may be roughly divided into the life of the cold weather,

and the struggle for existence during the grilling days and almost hotter nights of the rest of the year, when in many places existence is only possible by the continued use of punkas and thermantidotes, and other appliances indigenous to the country. Needless to say, in the hot weather a determined effort is made to get away to the delights of the nearest hill station, life at which elysiums has been made familiar to all by the graphic pen of Rudyard Kipling, who has also brought vividly before the most unimaginative of mortals the miseries of the lot of the unfortunates condemned to swelter through the arid summer months in the plains. During this trying time military duties are naturally reduced to a minimum, though musketry still goes on in many places, and the professional zeal of the keenest soldier is generally easily satisfied with the one parade a day (Thursday, the general military holiday throughout India, excepted), which parade is held in the early morning before the sun has had time to acquire his full power, being usually over by eight o'clock.

Orderly-room and breakfast have now to be attended to, and when this is over the rest of the day is given up to an endeavor to get cool, to sleep, and to pass away the time till it is possible to venture forth for the game of racquets, polo, or tennis, which is required to provide the exercise necessary for health. This over, the club will be visited for a "peg," *Anglicè* drink, and a game of pool or billiards before dinner, and the evening may be brought to a conclusion with more billiards or a rubber of whist. The hot weather will also afford the sportsman an opportunity of putting in for leave to visit Cashmere, or to make an excursion into the Terai in quest of tiger. Leave is given with a free hand in India. In times of peace within our borders any officer can count on his two, three, or even four months' leave in the year, which compares favorably with the two and a half months' obtainable in the winter at home. But the leave season is brought to a conclusion with the arrival of the cold weather, when the military training of the troops is taken seriously in hand, and when camps of exercise, involving much hard work on all ranks, are annually formed at the principal military centres.

Besides this revival of activity in purely military directions, the cold weather will also witness a great quickening of social activity in nearly every station, the fair occupants of the numerous bungalows in the larger cantonments returning from the hills, where they have been dancing, picnicking, and flirting away the summer months, to enter with a renewed zest on the same occupations with fresh fields to conquer and fresh game to subdue.

In some places fox-hounds, imported from England, which have been sent to the hills during the hot weather, are brought back to their kennels, and the ardent horseman abandons the fascinations of pig-sticking for the tamer pursuit of the jackal, which is in some instances carried on with all the pomp and circumstance of fox-hunting at home. At many places cricket is now in full swing, and race-meetings and the great polo tournaments give a zest to existence which had been sadly wanting in the torrid months, now almost forgotten. The British officer in India is as keen on racing as his brother at home; and if he wants to gamble, facilities for doing so are supplied by the selling lotteries, which take the place of the accommodating book-maker. Horseflesh is cheap in India, though high-class polo and racing ponies certainly command fancy prices, the latter, miniature race-horses of 13.2 and under, taking the place of the thoroughbred in England; but every subaltern can possess his "tat," and the "sport of kings" can be indulged in by men who would find it impossible to be more than spectators at home. For this reason, and for the facilities that exist for the pursuit of every sport at a moderate expense, India is indeed a paradise for the average Briton—that is to say, if he can retain his health, a condition which is more easy to fulfil in these days of improved sanitary knowledge than it was in the past.

Unfortunately, owing to the falling rupee, the poor man is becoming daily at a greater disadvantage in India, but even now the young soldier of a hardy stock, of scanty means, and keen on gratifying the sporting instinct, which forms such a strong characteristic of his race, can do worse than throw in his lot with the British army in the "Gorgeous East."

OUR FUTURE POLICY.

BY THE HON. J. G. CARLISLE.

WHETHER we shall enter upon a career of conquest and annexation in the islands of the seas adjacent to our shores and in distant parts of the world, or adhere to the peaceful continental policy which has heretofore characterized our national course, is by far the most important question yet presented for the consideration of our people in connection with the existing war with Spain. To even the most careless observer of current events it must be evident that the avowed purpose for which the war was commenced has passed almost entirely out of the public mind, and that, if not wholly abandoned before hostilities cease, it will be accomplished merely as one of the incidents attending the success of our arms, while other results having a permanent and controlling influence upon our future national life and character may make this struggle with a feeble monarchy in Europe the commencement of a new era in the history of the great American republic. Spain may not be able to maintain her existing dynasty, or even her present form of government, and yet it may be that she has provoked a conflict which will mark the beginning of a radical change in the domestic and foreign policy of the United States, and possibly the beginning of a revolution in the opinions and aspirations of our people which may ultimately prove fatal to the simple republican institutions under which we now live.

The only causes for the intervention which resulted in the present war, as stated by Congress in a resolution approved by the President, were that "the abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States, have been a disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating, as they have, in the destruction of a United States battle-ship, with 266 of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, and cannot longer be endured." For these reasons only it was declared that the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free

and independent; that it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the government of the United States does demand, that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and withdraw its land and naval forces from that island and its waters; and that the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry the resolution into effect. Even if the resolution had stopped here, it would have been perfectly plain that there was no purpose of conquest or annexation, because the right of the people of Cuba to be free and independent, which includes a right to establish and maintain a separate government of their own, was distinctly declared; but, in order to give the world positive assurance of our unselfish purposes, the resolution concluded with the unequivocal statement that "the United States hereby disclaims any disposition to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

This demand, with the disclaimer incorporated in it, was at once officially transmitted to our minister at Madrid for delivery to the Spanish government, with the announcement that a response must be made within forty-eight hours. That government having prevented the delivery of the demand by the summary dismissal of our minister, Congress promptly declared that war existed between the two countries from the date of that act, and we are now engaged in the prosecution of hostilities for the reasons and purposes set forth in the resolution. Unless bad faith is to be imputed to our government, the conclusion is inevitable that if this demand had been complied with, the whole purpose of our intervention would have been accomplished, and no further proceedings of an unfriendly character