BREECH-LOADING ARMS.

French, English, and American Experiments-The Defects of the Needle-gun, Etc. Etc.

An elaborate paper in the Revue des Deux Mondes, written by M. Xavier Raymond, contains, in connection with a review of the war in Germany, some interesting statements concern-ing the needle-gun and the different varieties of breech-loading arms.

He says of the Prussian weapon that its mechanism is very simple, and easily adjusted even by the least intelligent private. That it is a practical weapon is sufficiently apparent from the fact that it has been in use for twenty-five years, and has stood three campaigns victo riously. Still, its detects are serious. As regards range, accuracy of aim, and penetrating power, it leaves a great deal to be desired. It shoots straight enough up to three hundred metres, but declines above that range up to six hundred metres, beyond which distance she does not earry. At that range even improved bullets will fall at the foot of the target, whilst the muskets of other European armies shoot hard at one thousand and even twelve hundred metres. It is owing to this-and not, as Dr. Russell says in one of his letters to the London Times, its small size—that the bullet "skims by bone" where a French or English bullet would

M. Raymond ascribes this defect to the imper-iect closing of the breech, which permits a great escape or gas, and to the extent of the windage. Another drawback is that the musket must be cleaned very frequestly. In wet weather the residue lett by the powder takes the shape of thick mud, and in dry weather it becomes a hard crust, which impedes the free motion of the sliding tube; mud or crust, it has so be washed away, else the weapon would be useless. M. Raymond does not appear to be quite sure how often this operation is necessary, but he has heard that cleaning becomes necessary after the musket has been area fifty rounds.

M. Raymond then proceeds to show what has been done in France with reference to breech-loaders. Among the various weapons which he mentions, two are worthy of notice. The first is the rifle adopted by the Cent Gardes as early as 1853—a beautiful weapon, very light and handy—which shoots very straight, and carries twelve hundred metres; the ballet is small, the whole carriedge weighing only twelve grammes; the charge is exploded by a brass pm, driven laterally through the copper socket filled with falminating powder; this socket closes the cartridge. This musket was invented by Colonel Treilie de Beautieu. It is almost perfect as a weapon, but has one tatal fault—it s far too costly and delicate to stand the rough usage of a campaign.

The breech tosder, however, which appears to have found favor with the French Government is one invented by M. Chassepot, which has been on trial at intervals for the last ten years. It has, as M. Raymond says, emerged from the hmbo of committees and committee-rooms; the battalion of Foot Chasseurs of the Imperial Guard, now at the camp or Chalons, having, since its arrival there, been provided with it.
M. Raymond gives the following account of the results obtained by this weapon spremising that the musket was fired, not by picked men, but by privates taken at random from the ranks:-

THE PRENCH BREECH-LOADER.

"As regards the rapidity of fire, which appears nowadays to be the principal desideratum, a man with a lot of loose cartridges beside him can fire the Chassepot masket twelve times in one minute; but that rate the most skuful and robust soldier cannot keep up beyond about thirty rounds; past that the fire perceptibly slackens. The same thing occurs with the Prussian needle-gun after the twenty-finh round. The cause is purely physical, i. e., the fatigue of the man, whose left arm has often to support unaided the whole weight of the weapon. If, instead of naving loese cartridges by the soldier's side, he has to take them out or his pouch, the rate of firing declines to six rounds per minute; but it averages seven or eight rounds per minute if the man is allowed to take his cartriages from the right-hand pocket or his The accuracy of the weapon has been ascertained by making the men fire at targets two metres high by two in breadth, at a range of five hundred metres, using a rest for the rifle. At that range a great many men firing a hundred rounds lodged a hundred bullets in the tew wide ones). The point-blank range of the Chassepot musket is fixed at five hundred metres, the extreme range exceeds one thou-sand metres, and the weapon requires no cleaning before two hundred and fifty rounds have been fired. One thousand and twelve hundred shots have been fired with the same musket without its sustaining any damage. The Chasse-pot musket may, therefore, sustain very advantageously a competition with the needle-gun. Its superiority arises chiefly from the more perfect closing of the breach, which is complete, whilst it is very defective in the zundnadeigewehr. All the gases developed by the ignition of the charge are utilized to propel the builet, which adds to its range and repetrating power whilst the perfect. penetrating power, whilst the perfect combus tion of the powder naturally obviates the ne cessity of frequent cleanings, which the Prussian weapon cannot do without. Croakers will lament that such a long time should have claused before its merits were recognized, but it must be acknowledged that the results arrived at are important. Let us add-but this is the dark side of the picture-that if the Chassepot rifle were adopted as the regulation musket for the infantry (which means two million of muskets), it would be requisite to apply for a credit of 100,000,000f. to manufacture them (\$20,000,000).

THE AUSTRIANS AND THE NEEDLE-GUN.

M. Raymond then speaks of the gun in use in the Austrian service—a muzzle loader on a new principle, that of M. Lorenz, which, both as regards range and precision, he thinks may com-pare advantageously with any other arm on the system; but that system is condemned. He

"General Benedek, in an order of the day, warned his soldiers of the rapid fire of the needle-gun, but told them to come to close quarters, and trust to their bayonets and the butt ends of their muskets. The advice was worthy of a brave man, but was it possible to follow it? The needle-gun, limited as its range is, sends builte five hundred yards, and that is a long distance to get over under such a pelting storm of lead as the Prussian infantry can shower into the space before it. General Benedek, who was at Solierino, where he displayed no common energy and talents, must have known that at that battle no cavalry, Austrian or French, was able to come up to the infantry opposed to them. On either side the fire disorganized the charges before they could reach the squares, and tais in spite of the uncloubted gallantry of the men-and yet horses charge at a more rapid pace than men do, and on both sides the intentry had only

percussion muzzle-loaders." BREECH-LOADERS IN ENGLAND.

At the Wimbledom rifle meeting in England, last month, several varieties of breech-loaders were tested. The results are summed up by the Saturday Review as follows:-

"The best performances in the trial for accuracy were those of the Westley Richards and the Spencer at two hundred, and the Berdan at five hundred yards. The greatest speed was obtained with the Remington carbine, from which one competitor actually got out lifty-one bullets in three minutes. But this was only done by shooting so wildly as not only to throw the majority of the balls off the target, but to send a fair proportion of them quite away from the buts on to the running deer mantelets, and, in short, all over the country. Even when fired slowly at the short range of two hundred yards, the weapon was deficient in accuracy and torce and would need much improvement before it could be seriously thought of as a soldier's arm. We are not sure that Brown Bess would not be more true, and it would be beyond all comparison

a stronger shooting gun.
"In rapidity, the Westley Richards was generally fired at the rate of about twenty shots in three minutes (faster, no doubt, than the Prassian gun), and its accuracy at this rate was

Appear of the property of the party

very creditable, its best score in the records we have yet seen being sixty-two marks in three minutes, which was more than the Reminston,

minutes, which was more than the Remington, with all its rapidity, could scaleve. But the greatest triumphs in accuracy and rapidity combined were won with the Spencer rifle. Its shooting seems at least as good as that of the Westley Richards, and its pace is better. On one occasion it scored seventy-nine in thirty shots, and on another eignity-two in thirty-three shots within the allotted time, and other scores were made little inferior to this. But the Spencer is at present shut out of the field by a defect traceable to the same arrangement to which its rapidity is due. Unlike any other weapons rapidity is due. Unlike any other weapons against which it competed, the Speucer takes in seven charges at once, which lie in a hollow in the butt, and are deposited in turn in the chara-ber by a very rapid action. Unfortunately, however, the cartridges are apt to jam, and several competitors were stopped in the middle of a good score by finding that the mechanism refused to act. Whether this tatal difficulty can be got over is one of the questions to be solved before the model breech loader is found; but it is difficult to believe that the ultimate pattern will not be a gun loaded, like the Spencer, with several carridges at once.

Besides those we have mentioned, a great variety of rifles were tried, with different degrees of success. The new Henry breech-loader—we believe an American invention—and the Berdan, the converted Enfield, made good work; and there were Green's and Craig's, and many others. both old and new, none of which, however, came quite to the front. The shooting, too, was principally at two hundred yards, a distance which tests the steadiness of the shooter much

more than the accuracy of the rifle." A prize of two hundred and fifty dollars, offered by the proprietors of the Sa'urday Review, was won with an Enfeld rifle "converted" on the plan of Colonel Berdan, the distance being five hundred yards.

AMERICAN EXPERIMENTS. The Board of Army Officers which recently met in Washington to test sixty-live different guns, filed its report in June, but the document is just yet published. We are enabled, however, to give the material results of the experi-

ments. General Hancock presided over the Board, The members were General Buchanan, of the infantry service; General Griffin, of the artillery; General Hagner and Colonel Benton, of the ordnance; Colonel Owens, of the cavalry; Colonel Comings, recorder. After repeated trials of all the guns submitted for inspection, the board recommended for adoption the plan of converting muzzle-loaders into breech-loaders, invented by Colonel Berdan; and also recom-mended the same plan for all the new muskets

hereafter to be made.

The Berdan musket was fired from the houlder, before the members of the Board, one hundred times in five and a half minutes-the arst twenty rounds in one minute. It had previously been fired three hundred times for the purpose of "fouling" it; had then been rusted in salt and water, and afterwards rolled in fine sand; and, finally, was subjected to proof charges with the sediment of four hundred charges in it-but came out in perfect condi-tion, and was again fired with safety. This extraordinary result is probably without a parallel in the history of small arms. A correspondent, alluding to the Wimbledon trial, remarks that "it must be very gratifying to the Board to know that an Enfield musset altered on the same plan won the prize in England,"

The rapitity of fire of this arm is more than double that of the lamous "needle-gun" of the Prussians. The cost of conversion does not exceed two dollars for each musket. Another American invention, therefore, is to be placed by the side of the monitors, now attracting the notice of Europe, as the best of its kind in use.

The magazine gun is not considered so effective a weapon as the improved breech-loader, nor has it been able to endure the repeated discharges to which the Army Board subjected the arms submitted for trial.

Married the Wrong Lady.

Married the Wrong Lady.

Love is a very uncortain thing, and it is not very safe to be too certain of the symptoms until they are unmistakable. Vienna has been stirred up lately by the comical result of a strange love story. It seems that in the house of one Herr Kuhne, a teacher of languages, Dr. Kant, a young physician, happened to make the acquaintance of a young lady, burdened with some property, and thirty years of age. The lady, being unmarried, evinced some interest in the young but rather abashed doctor. She made love to him, in fact, very strongly, and persuaded him to visit her at her house. But, persuaded him to visit her at her house. But, alas! he loved another lady. One evening,

while conversing with him, she said:—
"With your favorable ideas of matrimony, may I ask if you ever thought of marrying,

Dr. Kant sighed; and his eyes resting on the ground, hesitatically muttered in reply :"I have already thought of marrying, and

"But" the lady hastily interposed.
"But," he continued, "the lady is rich, very rich, and I am poer. I am afraid I could hardly aspire to her hand; and rather than allow my self to be taxed with sordid designs, I will bury my passion in my breast, and leave it unavowed

At an early hour the following day, however, she betook herself to a solicitor, and in legal form declared her wish to present and hand over as his property the sum of 150,000 guilders (£15,000) to Dr. Kant. When the document had been signed, countersigned, and duly completed, she sat down in the office, and enclosing it in an elegant envelope, added the following

"Dear Sir :- I have much pleasure in enclosing a paper which I hope will remove the obstacle in the way of your marriage. "Believe me, etc., ALICE MARTINI."

Dr. Kant-for he, and no other, was the individual addressed—was the happiest man in the world on receiving this generous epistle. Re-pairing at once to the parents of the Fraulein Fischel, the lady of his love, he proposed for and received the hand of a girl who had been flattered by his delicate attentions. His reply to Alice Martini, besides conveying to her his sincerest thanks, contained two cartes de visite, linked together with the significant rose-colored ribbon. Miss Martini forthwith sued the happy bridegroom for restitution; but as no promise of marriage had been made, the case was, by two successive courts, decided against her.

Writing Newspaper Articles.

From the North British Review. It is not enough to think and to know. It requires the faculty of utterance. Certain things are to be said, and in a certain manner; and your amateur article writer is sure to strengthen in any manner but the right. Per-haps of all styles of writing there is none in which excellence is so rarely attained as that of newspaper writing. A readable leading article may not be the work of the loftlest order, or demand for its execution the highest attributes of genius; but whatever it may be, the power of accomplishing it with success is not shared by "thousands of clever fellows," Thousands of clever fellows, tortified by Mr. Thackeray's opinion, may think they can write the articles which they read in the morning journals; but let them take pen and paper and try.

Men are not born article writers any more than they are born doctors of the law or doctors of physic, as the ludicrous failures which are every day thrown into the rubbish basket of all our newspaper offices demonstrate past all con-tradiction. Incompetency is manifest in a variety of ways; but an irrepresable tendency to fine writing is associated with the greatest number of them. Give a clever young medical student a book about aural or dental surgery to review; and the chances are ten to one that the criticism will be little less than a high-flows. grandiloquent treatise on the wonders of crartion. A regular "literary hack" will do the thing nuch better.

A "Last Man."—A Natal paper state; that among the curiosities on the Market square of Maritzburg recently was "the last of the Hotten-Magizzburg recently was "the last of the Hotten-tots," He is a man of very small features and diminutive statute. He spoke Dutch, and although a shrivelled-up specimen of humanity appeared in good health and spirits.

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188.
June 29, Daniel Smith, Administrator d. b, n. of JACOB, otherwise JAMES K. POLK, deceased

20, Peter D. Myers administrator of MARY A PICHON, deceased.

30, A. B. Warthman an George Ford, Executors of William FORD, deceased

30, Ann Thompson, Administratrix of William THOMPS N. deceased.

30. Agnes G. Mills, Executrix of THOMAS MILLS, deceased.

July 2, William B. Wright and Jonathan J. Morrison, Executors of CHARLES WRIGHT, de-

Executors of CHARLES WRIGHT, deceased.

2. George W. Conover, Administrator of WILLIAM B. CONOVER, deceased

3. Mary Nagle, Administratix d b B. c. t. s. of
JOHN GOODHAB!, deceased.

4. Ann Griham and John Bryden, Executors of
JANE GRAHAM, deceased

5. Henry M. Dechert, Administrator of JACOB
REEs, deceased.

5. Sarah Roberts, Administratix of EDWARD
ROBERTS deceased.

7. William B Wobblus, administrator c. t. s. of
SUSAN LEUNARD, deceased.

12. William H. Seeley and Lemmel R. Justice, Administrators of JOSEPH JUSTICE, deceased.

13. Pressey Blakiston and Henry M. Dechert, Ex
15. Pressey Blakiston and Henry M. Dechert, Ex
16. Pressey Blakiston and Henry M. Dechert, Ex
17. Pressey Blakiston and Henry M. Dechert, Ex
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ministrators of JOSEPH JUSTICE, deceased

13, Pres ev Blakiston and Henry M. Dechert, Extections of thomas S Taylor deceased.

14 Martha Notman and Joseph A. Clsy, Executors of JOHN NOTMAN, deceased.

18 Elizabeth Snyder, Executrix of DANKEL SNY-DER, deceased.

20, Mark Devine and Catharine McAtee. Executors of Thomas McATEE deceased.

21, Charles Harbert. Executor of ISAAC HARBEET, deceased.

22, John Ferry, Jr. and Philip S. Ferry, Executors of JOHN ESRAY, deceased.

24. Archer W. Clowes. Executor of ELLEN CLOWES, dec ased.

24. Pennsylvania Company, for Insurance on Lives, Itc., Administrators d. b. n. c. t. 2. of ALEXANDER IDWAR, deceased.

26. Robort Fartin, Executor of Rev. CAJETAN Mariant Company.

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