

nd go straight to Bangalore with his importations, and will train at that station, which is admirably adapted for training purposes. The string of Mr. Ezra having gone in charge of Southall, his former trainer Gerard is now open to engagement. H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala also intends importing a few English clinkers for the classic events next season, while Mr. Gregory, Mr. Charles, Captain McLaughlin, and a few other sportsmen will also have fresh horses. Tenasserim, the property of Mr. Kook, has been sent to England for stud purposes. The game Arab made his debut on the Calcutta turf by winning the Eclipse Stakes in 1888 from young Chorister, who was in strong request. His owner will follow him to the old country in the course of a couple months, and it is probable that he will return to India next cold season with a few English crocks. I am sorry to hear that Mr. Alwyn intends retiring from the turf.

Immediately after the Bombay fixture, which is fixed for the 27th instant, closing on the 5th proximo, the revised rules of the Western India Turf Club will be submitted before a general meeting, and if passed will come into operation on or about the 1st of May. The Bombay meeting will be the centre of all attraction after the Meerut fixture, and the big bookies will shortly after embark for England.

The Race Course now presents a rather deserted appearance. One of the representatives of Messrs. Mackintosh Burn and Co. has been busy during the week on the Course taking measurements of the surroundings with the view of effecting further improvements. Every year the grand stand and the promenade undergo some alteration. Among the intended alterations and additions will be the removal of old railings round the course, and the substitution of iron gateways in place of the wooden ones.

I see that Trahan, the professional crack, obtained the most winning mounts during the last Calcutta Meeting. There is no doubt that he is one of the best horsemen in India. Jim Robinson ranked next, and his skilful riding is too well known to need comment.

I am glad to say that that fell evil, *meningitis*,

which has been prevalent during some seasons past among racing ponies is on the decrease,

and such of the horses as were affected are re-

covering.

SHOOTING.

During the past fortnight several bags have been made at the Salt Water Lakes, Gobardanga, and in some of the localities on the Eastern Bengal Railway. Among these, the snipe-shooters at Gobardanga appear to have been most successful. Among four guns, seventy couple were secured, together with twenty-five brace of duck. Of this lot twenty brace fell to one gun, who had separated himself from the rest. In his endeavour to cross the jheel he got entangled among the weeds and narrowly escaped drowning. He had barely escaped from this mishap when he was suddenly pounced upon by a cobra, which he luckily "despatched" with the butt end of his gun. The locality is infested with these reptiles, and sportsmen should be very cautious in their movements. There is no doubt that good execution could be done among the long bills in these jheels, which abound with game in certain seasons of the year. At the Salt Water Lakes the bag was comparatively small, though forty couple were secured. Besides snipe, five mallard and four teal were secured, and as the introduction of the Game Preservation Act is likely to have a beneficial effect, there is no reason why this should not be one of the best and convenient resorts of Calcutta sportsmen. A few miles from Hughli there is a succession of swamps, where game is said to be plentiful in certain seasons of the year. Some years ago one of the members of a shooting party made a phenomenal bag in these jheels, which swarm with teal, mallard, and snipe. The churs of Sara, Pudda, Bhajnath are also noted resorts, and sportsmen are sure to find plentiful game there.

Concerning snipe, a correspondent writes:— I have only heard of two fair bags of snipe having been obtained, one of 22 and the other of 20 couples, off the western end of the Dhankoni Bhil in the Howrah district. This marsh, a few years ago, was a favourite resort with Calcutta sportsmen, but it has been nearly drained, and is now more or less under cultivation. Some small bags have also been taken off patches on the Diamond Harbour Road, a few miles to the south of Kidderpur. One sportsman out near Gurirah came across a large flock of wild duck. He was unable to bag any owing to only having snipe shot in his cartridges, and the birds allowed him to approach within seventy yards before they rose in flight. Large numbers of duck and teal have been seen settling over portions of the Salt Water Lakes, but they are extremely wary and are harried by Native shikaris. The jhils near Khulna on the Central Bengal line have afforded some capital bags during the past week. They are reported to be swarming with game, and this is borne out by the fact that the Calcutta New Market is supplied daily with large quantities of live game snared and challanned down from this locality.

The party of sportsmen who went down the Sunderbans returned last week. They had very poor sport. They managed, however, to wound very severely a rhinoceros on Butcherry Island, but the brute managed to get away into an impenetrable jungle. A spotted deer was however, bagged. On their return near some old ruins. Tiger tracks were plentiful at landings made on several wood-cutters' clearances, but Stripes kept out of sight. From the tracks left by him one evidently kept circling round the party for a long time, but did not once show himself. The small churs on the Attarabanka were literally seen swarming with alligators: several were fired at and shot, but all managed to roll into the water, and were never seen again. A large jhil on the left bank of the Roy Mangan river afforded a day's splendid sport with duck teal, and curlew. Large numbers of geese were seen, but kept a long way out of range. On the morning

of the inspection of the Calcutta Volunteers a pair of cotton teal were observed quietly seated on the surface of the Serpentine Tank, that elongated piece of water to the north of the Presidency jail. Teal have been frequently seen during the season in this tank.

OUR VOLUNTEERS.

Activity has been the order of the day, in preparation for two inspections which have been held during the week now concluded,—that of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles on Thursday, and that of the Calcutta Light Horse on Friday. Both Corps elicited very high praise from the inspecting officer, Lord Frankfort, and doubtless the presence at both parades of General Morton and a large majority of the Volunteer Officers who are now in Calcutta on Conference duty acted as a beneficial incentive to good work. In the case of the Infantry notable excellence was attained in the several "marches past," in a prolonged advance in line, in wheels in column, in rapid changes of front, and in the intelligent posting of outposts. Lord Frankfort declared that the drill showed a very marked stride in advance of the efforts of last year, and it would seem clear that if only the officers and non-commissioned officers could be induced to improve on anything like level terms with the rank and file, excellence of a very high order is in the C. V. Rifles easily attainable. The volley firing, by the way, was in many cases not quite up to the regimental form. The Light Horse went through a very searching drill, which included marching past at the walk, trot, and gallop, ranking past by single file, and an advance in review order at the gallop. Sword exercise and pursuing practice, diminution and increase of front of every description, line and column movements, and the formation of an advanced guard. The drill from first to last was of that quality and form which is to be anticipated from a body of gentlemen keen to a man on bringing credit to their corps, led by officers all of whom, by efficiency and smartness, command the confidence and respect of their men, and fortunate in the possession of a professional instructor from every aspect fitted for his duties. Lord Frankfort, as in the case of the Infantry, laid stress on the marked advance since his last inspection. He found it difficult to take even slight exception to anything he had seen, and his warm commendation was echoed by the many officers of experience who witnessed the parade, whose general opinion seemed to be that if only the numbers could be trebled, as in Calcutta might and should be the case, the C. L. H. would form a Corps second to none in the Volunteer Force of England. At the assault-at-arms the Volunteers may be said to have held their own very creditably. The "musical ride" on Saturday was even better performed than at the Volunteer sports, and in the Riding and Victoria Cross competitions, as well as in several minor events, the Light Horse were all there. The Artillery dismounting gun practice lost much of its interest by the accident which put one gun out of action. A time competition is deficient in excitement, and the Cossipur Artillery could, we think, under ordinary circumstances, have given much better account of themselves. The Naval Boys as usual won the hearts of the gallery by their smart and thoroughly practical work.

To-day the best sixty of the Administrative Battalion are contesting the honour of being in the final stage for the Viceroy's Cup on Saturday next, and the results will give the knowing ones useful information towards a "straight tip" for the ultimate winner. There is a large private lottery on the final shoot, in aid of the Headquarters Building Fund, to be drawn on the 17th instant.

The Calcutta Volunteer Rifles go into camp to-morrow near the range for a week's valuable instruction in the all-important duties of guards, outposts, and reconnaissance, with, as the Colonel puts it, a leaven of fun of sorts. The Light Horse close their successful camp to-day, and the drill season of 1891-92 will be brought to a termination with the most practical, useful, and comprehensive test that could well be devised. The chart and compass competition is an annual institution dating back several years, and is the outcome of the generosity and keen recognition of soldierly accomplishments of two thorough sportsmen. They doubtless find their reward in the improved quality of the competition year after year. A twenty mile ride, over an unknown country, on one horse, in say 1h. 50m. has a smack of real business about it, and the compulsion to submit a written report within an hour of the completion of the ride, which report may be worth a hundred rupees to its writer, gives the finishing touch to a perfectly devised lesson in the most practical duties of a Cavalry soldier.

The Conference is appropriately holding its sittings at the Volunteer Headquarters. Their deliberations are to be profound secrets, pending the approval of Government, but there can be no impropriety in guessing that if substantial benefits and aids to increased efficiency do not shortly accrue to the Volunteer Force the blame will not lie with its representatives. It is a most satisfactory feature that the predominant idea in the mind of every delegate is said to be "greater efficiency." We hear with pleasure that Captain Reintry, of "F" Company, and senior partner in India of Messrs. Hamilton & Co., to-day takes his seat as an additional member of the Conference; a better representative of a large and valuable section of the force could not be found.

The inspection by the General Commanding the Presidency Division of the Calcutta Naval Artillery Volunteers takes place at four o'clock this afternoon on board their training Brig. The men have been in active training for this event, and are prepared to meet a most minute and thorough inspection. Their Artillery practice last week at Diamond Harbour was excellent.

COSSIPUR ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.

The event of this week has been the gun dismounting contest between teams of Royal Artillery and teams from this Corps; and for the