

less. They are armed with rifles with wicks that are also used in target shooting. It is only among the senior officers, starting with Djentais, that you find supplies of breach-loaders, many of them old Remingtons and Mausers of 1 cartridge. With the exception of Si-an-fu and Ku yuen and possibly Hanchung, in view of its importance and remote situation, these supplies are unimportant. As in Kan Su, manoeuvres are only held during the 2nd and 8th Chinese months, when reviews usually take place, too, in the larger towns. Target shooting also is only practised at that time, once or twice in each month. There are no instructors. The men and officers have in turn to occupy posts, guard the town gates and serve in the yamens of the superior officers. As a rule they are relieved every six days (?). — In towns in which the garrison is composed of mobile troops, efforts are made, however, to introduce the marching pace of the modern Chinese troops and their evolutions. This drill, beneath criticism in its execution, has — it must be admitted — a certain reason. The officers are the old Chinese officers and to a great extent superannuated. It is worth noting, however, that a feeble attempt is being made to rejuvenate the rank and file by dismissing old men and recruiting men who are scarcely full-grown. — At Si-an-fu I watched 3 in of tchyping, about 250 men, at target practice. They used rifles with cocks. The range was 200 yards. Out of 95 shots there were 33 hits. The target was the height of a man and 3 feet broad.

As regards other troops there is 1 in of »hsuipei fandziun» in each of the 4 Djentai residences of the district (including Southern Kan Su), 3 in of »hsypei» and 1 in of »tchangpei» at Ku yuen transferred from Lanchow, 1 in of »fupiao» (from Si-an-fu) at Hanchung and 8 »fandziun» (formed of former »lendziun») quartered in different towns in order to maintain the posts along the roads. They are about equal in numbers and may be estimated at slightly over 300 men each (tchangpei and fupiao about 450 men each) with about a dozen officers. The 7 in of »hsypei fandziun» and »hsypei» are armed with matchlocks and some rifles with cocks, the 8 »fandziun» in with rifles with cocks and a few Mausers, the »tchangpei» and probably the »fupiao» with rifles with cocks and repeating rifles. These troops have instructors of the rank of junior officers or N.C.O's. They are trained either in the courses for officers at the »Tulenchu» in the provincial capitals or among troops trained according to the so-called German system, a few among the »ludziun» at Si-an-fu. The latter are the best and are said to know their job. Gymnastics have been introduced and the marching and exercises are praiseworthy. The activities of other instructors are restricted to marching and exercising and they often seem inclined to neglect even these. — The officers consist, at any rate for the greater part, of men of the »good old school», who probably watch the introduction of a new system with distaste. It can also be said that as a general rule the drill that ought to take place twice a day, is often omitted. Target practice is neglected. There are no fixed days for it. In many »ins» I was told that no shooting had been done for the last year. It must be estimated that target practice is only done between the harvest and threshing in the autumn and the field work in the spring, i.e., in the course of 2 or at most 3 months. The range is always the same. No tactical exercises are carried out and those exercises that are indulged in are interfered with by the fact that a great part of the men are scattered among different posts. The men are often changed.