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HOW TO REFORM THE RECRUITING SYSTEM OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

Although the writer of the following pages is a medical man, it is not his intention to view the subject from a purely medical point of view, but rather to discuss it generally.

True it is that the medical examination of recruits is one of the most important parts of the present recruiting system, and as such, must be constantly referred to; still it is only a part, whereas it is now proposed to review the entire system and to suggest a change. A single paragraph will make the general reader acquainted with the rather expensive system which is at present in operation. There are in Great Britain a total of seven recruiting districts—four of these are in England, two in Ireland, and one in Scotland. These seven districts are divided into sub-districts or sub-divisions.

The officials of each district are the following:—an inspecting field-officer, an adjutant, a paymaster, a surgeon, non-commissioned officers and men, the latter distributed over the district according to circumstances.

Besides the above officers, there are sub-division or superintending officers attached to the sub-districts, of inferior rank, subordinate to the inspecting field-officer of the district; but the control of the entire recruiting department is in the hands of the adjutant-general of the army, assisted by the inspecting field-officer of the London recruiting district.

Such is the present recruiting establishment of the British Army; certainly an expensive one, when we bear in mind that it is a permanent establishment, which at certain seasons of the year, when recruiting is slack, may have, indeed has, very little to do. But this expense might not be objected to were recruits thereby to find their way to their respective regiments without any other outlay except that connected with the recruits themselves. But this is not the case. This expenditure would be incurred even if not a single recruit were enlisted at any of the districts. It may, therefore, be looked upon only as a preliminary outlay, for in addition each attested recruit costs at present 21s., of which sum 15s. is paid to the recruiting party by whom he is enlisted, less 1s. which goes to the recruit, 5s. is paid to the recruiting officer, and 1s. to the magistrate's clerk.

If, however, a recruit be not finally approved, these payments—save under exceptional circumstances—are disallowed, and any other expenses which may have been incurred come out of the pocket of the recruiting party. But, for every approved recruit, independent of bounty to the recruit himself, 21s. are paid in fees in addition to the expenses of the recruiting establishment.

There is a slight difference in the cost of head-quarter recruits; the adjutant of a regiment gets only 3s. for each recruit passed, the

other payments being the same. Thus a head-quarter recruit costs 2s. less than a district recruit, and is generally better than the latter.

In the case of a recruit being submitted for medical inspection by a civil practitioner, the latter receives 2s 6d. under all circumstances, but should the recruit be finally approved at head-quarters, that sum is increased to 4s. for each recruit.

While very much objecting to all the above fees, could a substitute for them be found, it certainly does appear unfair that almost every one who has in the slightest degree been engaged in securing a recruit for the service, derives a pecuniary benefit except the commissioned medical officer, who performs, perhaps, the most important part of this duty. If the system of fees be continued, he ought in future to participate, for surely his duties are as important in this matter as those of the recruiting officers who get 5s., or of the adjutants of regiments who get 3s. for each recruit. In truth the whole system of these fees is erroneous.

There are at least three ways by which recruits reach the ranks of the army :—

1st. Recruits are enlisted at the head-quarters of regiments at home, and at depôt battalions for such regiments as compose battalions, without any intermediate examination. If such recruits are passed by the regimental commanding officer and surgeon, or by the commandant of the depôt battalion and his staff-surgeon, they are not liable to further inspection before being attached to their regiments. This is the simplest and is believed to be the most successful mode of enlisting.

The second way of enlisting recruits is by the recruiting staff of a recruiting district—a man being enlisted is taken to the district office—he is there measured as to height and girth of chest (is perhaps weighed) and is otherwise examined. These preliminaries being found satisfactory, he is taken for medical inspection to the office of the district staff medical officer, if passed by him, he is then attested before a magistrate, after which he becomes entitled to a billet, but is maintained by the recruiting party at their risk, until he is finally approved at the head-quarters of his regiment or its depôt. There he is sent forthwith, and is at once submitted to the inspection of the commanding officer and surgeon, whose approval is final. The commanding officer can reject him if he is deficient in height or girth of chest, but the surgeon cannot reject him for any defect without obtaining the opinion of a medical board, whose decision is final. If the recruit objected to by a surgeon is rejected by that board, the expenses incurred are liable to be charged against the recruiting party which originally enlisted him; but this is seldom done if he has been previously passed by the district recruiting medical officer. This is the second mode in which recruits may be enlisted, a more complex one, as will have been noticed.

A third mode is as follows:—A man is enlisted at the sub-

division of a district, is passed by the subordinate officer, and medically by a military medical officer, or more usually by a civil practitioner. The recruit thus enlisted, if he be near the regiment or depôt to which he wishes to belong, is sent direct to such regiment or depôt where he may be at once and finally approved, or, if objected to, brought before a medical board, and if rejected by it, sent back without delay with expenses disallowed.

If, however, he be not near such regiment or depôt, he is taken to the head-quarters of the recruiting district, whence, if passed, he is sent to his regiment or depôt as before, subject to be again inspected there. If, however, the district surgeon has reason to object to him, he summons a medical board whose decision is final, and cannot be questioned at the head-quarters of the regiment or depôt.

Can anything therefore be more plain than this, that recruits in every respect similar are submitted to more or less examination as to their fitness, according to circumstances which are altogether unconnected with their qualifications, for let us suppose four recruits all having some similar doubtful disability, one is passed (or rejected as the case may be) at once at head-quarters. A second is passed at the head-quarters of a recruiting district, and passed, or rejected by a medical board, at head-quarters of the regiment. A third is passed at sub-division inspection, and passed, or rejected by medical board, at the regimental head-quarters. A fourth may be passed at a sub-division inspection, likewise at the head-quarters of a recruiting district, but afterwards, being objected to by the regimental surgeon, be rejected by a medical board.

It is plain that of two recruits altogether similar, one has to be submitted quite, from accidental circumstances, to three times as much examination as the other, just because he has happened not to present himself at first at the head-quarters of the regiment into which he desires to enlist.

But there is another inconsistency equally objectionable—the district staff recruiting medical officer is generally a man of considerable experience and is supposed to know his duty—nevertheless he may find a recruit fit for the service who is subsequently objected to by a regimental surgeon, probably his junior in rank, not his equal in experience, and who is subject to be influenced by the commanding officer of his own regiment. It may even happen that the medical officer in charge of the regiment, and therefore authorized to object, may be only an assistant surgeon. True, neither a regimental surgeon nor an assistant surgeon in charge, can finally reject such a recruit, but they have it in their power to require that he should be brought before a medical board, of which they may or they may not be members; but still, that medical board may be composed of officers all inferior in rank and experience to the district staff surgeon, and still they have power to reject a recruit approved of by him.

These are two of the most prominent inconsistencies which have crept into the present recruiting system. Dr. Marshall, in allusion to the latter of these, very justly says:—"were the medical board to which ineligible recruits are referred, commonly constituted of officers who have had more experience in the inspection of recruits than district surgeons, an appeal to their opinion and decision might be highly expedient and satisfactory, but when a board happens to be composed of officers who have had little or no experience in their duty, and some of them may never before have examined men with a view to their fitness for the service, its decision does not always give general satisfaction." This is a mild expression. He might have said, that a reference to a board so constituted against the opinion of an officer of experience, is little short of an official farce.

But there is another point to which the notice of the higher authorities ought specially to be directed:—the regulations of the service declare the rejection of a recruit when primarily examined by a district surgeon or regimental surgeon to be final, a medical board only being by them granted when a recruit has been passed at an out-station, and objected to medically at head-quarters.

In direct opposition to these regulations, instances are not few in which regimental commanding officers or inspecting field officers, dissatisfied with the rejection of recruits, desirable, from their point of view, although medically unfit, have made application for medical boards, thereby virtually passing a censure on the opinion of the inspecting medical officer. It even consists, with my knowledge, that the more careful and particular a district officer may be, the less satisfaction does he give to the other recruiting officials. The inspecting field officer has no pecuniary interest in the number of recruits furnished, but the most of his subordinates have, and they influence him often too much. If the medical officer does his duty too well, he is apt to lose his appointment, through underhand misrepresentation, if on the other hand he does it laxly, and is too easily biassed by non-medical advisers, he is very apt to saddle the service with bad bargains.

These remarks are dictated not by one-sided prejudice in favour of the profession to which the writer belongs, but rather by a desire to convince the public, and the authorities who have the supreme guidance of these matters, that by maintaining the authority of the medical department in purely medical points, connected with recruiting, they will exclude many useless men from the service, and lessen the expenditure of public money. If they decline to do this, I can see only one other alternative:—relax the stringency of the regulations by which the medical inspection of recruits is guarded, and give medical officers a certain latitude to enable them to accept exceptional cases of men, even although they may have blemishes, which, by the standing regulations, would cause their rejection.

Certain it is, that the public interest would be advanced by the

independent opinion of the medical officer in this important matter being vindicated.

These statements will give the general reader a tolerably accurate notion, of what the recruiting service, as at present constituted, is. In the course of these remarks, we have been led to allude to some of the defects and abuses of the system, and we now proceed to point out others which have occurred to us, before proposing a scheme for their remedy.

Recruiting at the head-quarters of a regiment or depôt battalion, is certainly the most satisfactory, as it is the cheapest mode of obtaining recruits. Indeed, there is very little connected with it against which exception can be taken. Neither the commanding officer nor the medical officer has any other object or interest beyond procuring unexceptional recruits, and the only two parties who have any interest in over-reaching them, are the recruit himself and the individual who may have enlisted him.

The views of the commanding officer may differ from those of the medical officer, and the latter sometimes has an unpleasant duty to perform, in rejecting men particularly favoured by the commanding officer, but this does not often happen, and a judicious surgeon will often pass men under such circumstances, when convinced in his own mind that it will be for the good of the service. For example, a fine looking recruit, desirable in every way, except that he has some trifling defect, rendering it right that he should be rejected, is much coveted by the commanding officer—or again, he and his adjutant have a great desire to secure the services of some intelligent and well-educated young man whom it behoves the surgeon to reject, on account of some trifling physical imperfection, judicious discrimination on the part of the surgeon and a few special modified regulations, issued by the head of the department, would prevent frequent clashing of duties, and often guard against the occurrence of ill-feeling between commanding officers and their surgeons, and when a proper understanding exists between them, a recruit or a recruiting sergeant will find it difficult to over-reach them. But in the case of district or out-station recruits the affair is very different. In this instance, there are various parties who have a pecuniary interest in deceiving the surgeon; indeed, if the statement will be excused, the surgeon is, perhaps, the only disinterested judge of the fitness or unfitness of the recruits, even more so than a regimental commanding officer. The bias of the surgeon's selfishness is all in the right direction. He looks for them with sound constitutions, in order that the hospital may not be overcrowded, while at the same time, if he has a pride in the regiment to which he belongs, he looks for men whose appearance will do it credit.

Let us here trace the history of an out-station recruit, with the aim of pointing out what deceptions have to be guarded against by all concerned, but more especially by the surgeon.

It is the duty of recruiting parties to seek out, and by all justifiable means to induce eligible young men to enlist—in some instances, men come forward and offer themselves voluntarily—sometimes, it is to be feared, men are enlisted while under the influence of excessive drinking—and sometimes, men offer themselves, knowing that they labour under some disability which renders them unfit for the service. This latter is undoubtedly one of the common forms of swindling throughout the country, and any plan which would succeed in checking it, would be the means of saving much money for the public. Numbers of men, without doubt, tramp from place to place enlisting when they have an opportunity, in order to be housed and fed for a few days, knowing that they are sure to be rejected when inspected by the surgeon. Whether men have been enlisted fairly—whether they have been hounded—or whether they have come forward voluntarily, in all cases they have received the shilling, and from that moment it becomes the interest of the parties by whom they have been enlisted, to get them passed into the service. With regard to the recruits themselves, it is the object of some who have repented of the step which they have taken, or who have been caught while not in a responsible state, to back out, by fabricating or feigning some disability which did not exist when they were enlisted, or on the other hand, it is the object of others either to conceal such defects altogether from anxiety to remain in the service, or to do so for a time, only in order that they may be maintained and lodged for so many extra days before their final rejection at head-quarters. This, then, is the first stage in deception against which the inspecting medical officer requires to be on his guard. He is apt to be imposed upon, on the one hand by the recruiting party, and on the other hand by the recruits. It frequently happens that this primary examination is made by a civilian medical practitioner.

A recruit having been enlisted, that is to say, having accepted the shilling, the next step in the matter is bringing him before the recruiting officer, in whose presence he is measured as to height and girth of chest, and sometimes he is weighed. The recruiting officer being satisfied with his inspection, he is then taken to the nearest medical man for medical inspection, At out-stations, it frequently happens that this is a civil practitioner. Many such medical men thus applied to, have no printed directions for their guidance in making their inspection, and are very easily influenced by an imposing looking recruiting sergeant, well skilled in showing a recruit off to advantage, and teaching him how to conceal certain defects which might lead to his rejection, and a consequent pecuniary loss to the recruiting party. But not only has the recruiting sergeant a money interest in the matter, but the inspecting medical officer, if a civilian, has one also. If he finds a recruit fit and he is finally approved, he receives four shillings; if he finds him unfit, or having found him fit if he is subsequently rejected he only receives half-a-

crown. In the latter case there is no penalty, he is not liable to refund his fee, and therefore he would be more than human did he not give the benefit of any doubt in favour of passing the recruit, when in that case he would receive four shillings instead of half-a-crown, should he at once reject him. True it is, that he only gets the extra one shilling and sixpence after the final approval of the recruit, but there are expenses which his having passed a recruit, who is afterwards rejected, entails on the public, and which cannot all be recovered, if any of them. I am afraid that offence will be given in some quarters by these plain assertions—without doubt, there are numerous exceptions—but be it remembered, that what to the inexperienced eyes of such men may appear a doubtful disability, is often no doubtful defect in the eyes of the disinterested and more experienced regimental surgeon at head-quarters.

While discussing this, there is one other assertion, by making which, however, injustice may be done to many able practitioners who are regularly employed in inspecting recruits. It has always been an impression on my mind that many civil practitioners do not inspect recruits "*puris naturalibus*"—that all of them strip recruits, more or less, when inspecting them, I believe, but that in the majority of cases such stripping is very partial I have always had a suspicion. How, otherwise, could one account for such causes of rejection being overlooked as marking with the letter D—traces of corporal punishment—undoubted rupture—cupping marks, and other indications of active treatment for serious diseases. Numerous cases of this kind from time to time come under the notice of medical officers, and they did so in an especial degree during the reckless proceedings resorted to while the war in the Crimea was in progress. Thus then it has been shown that the military medical officer has to be on his guard against the errors and oversights of the civil practitioner employed in the primary inspection of recruits, as well as against the wiles of the recruiting sergeants.

The next step in the career of an out-station recruit is his appearance before the civil magistrate—it would be dangerous and perhaps unjust to assert that magistrates are apt to perform this part of their duties laxly, not satisfying their minds thoroughly on all points into which they ought to enquire. Certain routine questions have to be put to each recruit. It is one thing, however, to put a question, and quite another to be thoroughly satisfied with the answer to a question, accepting no subterfuges. In addition to perhaps a little carelessness on the part of some magistrates, it is to be feared that there is a great amount of lying and perjury amongst some recruits, on the subjects of age—previous enlistment—indenture engagement—matrimony, &c., on these points, the commanding officer, not the surgeon has to satisfy himself.

The recruit having been approved so far, has next to be brought before the recruiting medical staff officer, unless the regiment for

which a recruit is destined be in the vicinity, in which case he is sent direct to it.

It will be observed that before such a recruit reaches this stage, a considerable outlay has possibly been incurred on his account, and that therefore it becomes more and more the interest of those by whom he has been brought there, to see that he is not rejected—in other words, when the recruiting serjeant brings him before the staff or regimental surgeon, like a horse-dealer in the case of a horse, he endeavours to show off his recruit to the best advantage. I do not assert that this is a general rule, there are many conscientious men employed in the recruiting service, but in many instances self interest overweighs the desire to promote the good of the service. It does happen too, as has been already hinted, that the inspecting field officer exceeds his powers, and interferes with the staff surgeon in the discharge of his part of the duty in the inspection of recruits.

Has it not then been made evident that from first to last, from the moment when at an out-station a recruit takes the shilling, to the period when at head-quarters he is finally posted to a company in his regiment, there is a greater amount of finesse, scheming, hoodwinking and deception displayed, than any uninitiated observer is at all aware of, added to which, the enormous expense of the present recruiting machinery, and the sums of money squandered upon recruits who finally are rejected, and rejected over and over again—here, there, and everywhere, as unfit for the service. If this be admitted, then any plan the adoption of which would even partially remedy such evils, ought to be accepted as a benefit conferred on the tax-payers—such a plan is now humbly submitted to the consideration of the authorities.

It would seem that even now the authorities have themselves become aware that the recruiting districts are more expensive and less efficient than they ought to be, for we learn that this autumn two districts have been broken up, and the recruiting entrusted to the local pensioners, and notice has also been given that the recruiting establishment in Edinburgh is to be merged into that of Glasgow.

As to successful recruiting by means of pensioners, it is to be feared that it will fail from want of energy. We all know, and ourselves feel that as men get on in years, even the most robust of us, but especially those of us whose constitutions have been shattered by long service in hot climates, or who are disabled by wounds, they become listless, and shrink from more exertion than is necessary, whereas to be successful in recruiting, a man requires to be in the prime of life, and full of energy and vigour. On these grounds, we are inclined to think that this attempt to carry on recruiting through the local pensioners will not succeed. But while the experiment is being tried, the following scheme is offered for consideration :—

It hardly becomes one who, after serving years in the regular Army, has been proud to serve in the Militia, both as an embodied

and disembodied force, to assert, that as at present constituted, it is an unnecessary burden to the finances of the country; still truth compels the writer to declare that, in his opinion at least, it might be made much more useful, more especially in connection with our present topic, namely, the recruiting for the regular Army. As an embodied force it was, during the Crimean emergency, quite equal to the Line, and it proved a most valuable feeder for filling up Line vacancies; but now, it would greatly surprise me if, out of the number of men enrolled on paper throughout the Militia of the United Kingdom, one half, if even that number could pass the Line inspection—indeed I am sure they would not do so.

What then can be the use of keeping up an expensive Militia, the greater part of which would prove unserviceable when an emergency came. It would answer every purpose to keep a properly constituted Militia staff, and employ it usefully and regularly in the public service, so that when an emergency did occur requiring the services of the Militia, all that would be necessary would be to enroll men, and without doubt, in a good cause, the ranks would very soon be filled up.

It is proposed then to employ the Militia staff in recruiting for the Line.

Another element in the proposed scheme is this: a reference to the Army List will remind non-military readers, that many of our regiments, more especially of the Line, are called after cities or counties in the United Kingdom—through time this local connection has become little more than nominal. It is proposed to revive it.

Again, it has been shown that considerable recruiting establishments are kept up at great expense throughout the kingdom. In many instances those employed well earn their extra pay, but very many people suspect that to be employed on recruiting service is synonymous with leading a rather idle life at the expense of the public.

It is on these three points that the following proposal is based, namely—1. The doubtful utility of the Militia as at present constituted. 2. The revival of the old custom of associating certain regiments with certain localities, and 3. The great expense of the present recruiting establishment, the conflicting interests of the various parties composing it, especially in the enlistment of recruits at the out-stations, and the great and acknowledged facility which exists under the present system for unprincipled men making a livelihood by enlisting over and over again, although perfectly aware of their own ineligibility. First, then—It is suggested that all regiments should be nominally connected with one or other of the cities or counties of the kingdom; the larger counties or cities to have regiments of two or more battalions associated with them, distinguished as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or north, south, east, west.

Secondly—That the city and county Militia staffs should be kept

in a highly efficient state, and be constituted as the depôts of the regiment or regiments of the Line which bear their name.

Thirdly—That in addition to the usual staff officers on full pay, the surgeon of Militia, carefully selected, should also be placed on full pay, and reside at the staff depôt, having a small hospital establishment under his control—that in addition to his Militia duties he should inspect recruits for the regular Army, and receive into his hospital, or otherwise attend invalids sent home for change of climate, or soldiers and recruits of the county regiments attached to the depôt when requiring medical treatment.

Fourthly—That young men should be encouraged to enlist in their own county regiment, it having been long acknowledged that all, so called, “National Regiments,” have been uniformly distinguished for gallantry and good conduct.

Fifthly—That monthly returns should be exchanged between the various staff depôts throughout the kingdom, stating how many recruits are required for each regiment, so that should recruits present themselves at one depôt, desirous for any good reason to join the regiment of another county, the officer in command of the depôt where the recruit presents himself, may have it in his power to enlist him for it.

Sixthly—That the medical inspection of all recruits should be primary and final, subject only to the revisal by a medical board, to be assembled forthwith on the spot, on sufficient grounds being advanced to authorise it.

Seventhly—That, if possible, recruits should be required to give proof that they belong to, or have been domiciled for a stated period in the county where they offer themselves for enlistment, such a provision being calculated to assist in checking a great amount of imposition which costs the country so much money. It is believed to be a regular trade followed by some men, that of moving about from place to place enlisting and re-enlisting. The recruiting staff of each county, under the proposed plan, would very soon have a perfect knowledge of such vagabonds, and descriptive lists might from time to time be interchanged between the officials. At present a recruit passes through too many hands before he is finally confirmed. This would be less objectionable did it serve any good end, and were it not so expensive. The present plan proposes that the inspection of the Militia adjutant and surgeon should be final, subject only in the case of the latter to the revision of a medical board as already stated.

The duties of the civil magistrate might even be transferred to one or other, or both of these officers, by having them named magistrates *ex-officio*.

Eighthly—The unsatisfactory relations that now exist between the regimental surgeon, the civil practitioner and the recruiting officials has been alluded to—to remedy this, it is suggested that a superior class of men should be selected for recruiting purposes, and formed

into a recruiting staff corps — that they should receive fixed pay, and that they should receive nothing besides that; should they prove unsuccessful or deficient in energy they should be superseded and returned to their regiments; the risk of which would prove a sufficient incentive to activity in the discharge of their duties. Non-commissioned officers, carefully selected, should, before being appointed to the recruiting service, undergo a course of training either at some central establishment organised for the purpose, or at one or other of the larger recruiting depôts or in a regimental hospital, care being taken that they should be instructed in such minutiae as it is possible to teach non-medical persons. It is well known to most medical officers how expert many hospital sergeants become in the examination of recruits, and how often in the experience of surgeons they have pointed out defects in recruits which the inspecting surgeon had nearly overlooked. Why, therefore, should men regularly instructed, not be capable of superseding in the intermediate medical inspection, the civil practitioners by whom it is at present undertaken.

Briefly then to sum up. The proposal now made involves the following changes:—It abolishes the present expensive recruiting establishment entirely. It abolishes the present depôt battalions likewise. Men would cease to be enrolled during times of peace for the disembodied Militia, but the Militia staffs would be improved and enlarged. The commissioned officers of the Militia staffs would be a captain and adjutant commanding, a surgeon, a paymaster, and a quartermaster.

The necessary quarters, stores, and offices, would be provided, including a small hospital and surgery; all Line regiments would by name be associated with one or other of the cities or counties of the United Kingdom, and the Militia staffs would be their depôts, in which relation they would receive invalids from abroad, and enlist recruits for them.

Trained recruiting non-commissioned officers and men on fixed pay and allowances, and receiving their orders from the Militia adjutant, would be attached to each depôt, and having enlisted men, would forthwith send them to the head-quarters of the Militia staff, where they would at once be inspected, attested, and finally approved, subject only to the revision of a medical board assembled under due authority.

The necessary expenses attendant on the enlisting of the recruit, his maintenance, and his journey to head-quarters, would be paid on voucher by the Militia paymaster, but beyond that no enlisting perquisites or fees would be paid, the good or bad success of the recruiting parties being made to regulate the tenure by them of their appointments. With regard to the Household Troops, the Cavalry, the Artillery, and the Engineers, some special regulations might require to be made. Still, even with reference to them, some local connection might be established. Even now amongst them

there are the Coldstream Guards, the Scots Fusilier Guards, Royal Dragoons, Scots Greys, Inneskilling Dragoons, &c. Instead of being connected by name with cities and counties, these branches of the service might be recruited in districts through the agency of the Militia staffs composing the districts.

There are other minor details which might be embraced in the above scheme. To mention only one.

At present Militia regiments have bands in most cases neither very strong or very melodious. Under the new organization these might be greatly improved. Young musicians might be trained by them for the Line regiments, and if properly supported by the landed proprietors, public corporations, and others, might supply at little expense to the general community, an efficient local band for public occasions. A great want in our country would thus be supplied, for is it not notorious that even in our larger towns it is at all times difficult to muster a creditable band for any purpose, whereas even in the smallest town on the Continent, powerful and highly trained bands may constantly be met with. Other details might be alluded to, but all such would be subordinate to the chief object of the scheme, "the efficient recruiting for the British Army."

Such then is a brief sketch of the proposed plan by which it is thought the present recruiting establishment might be superseded with advantage to the service and the public purse. If adopted, it might not prove more efficient than that system which it proposes to replace, still as a plan it is now humbly submitted to the consideration of the authorities and the public.

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