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#### REGULATIONS

AND

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

FOR THE

## INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, HORSE-GUARDS,

10th September, 1819.

By Authority.

PRINTED AND SOLD BY W. CLOWES AND SONS, 14, CHARING CROSS, LONDON.

#### GENERAL ORDER.

Horse-Guards,.
10th September, 1819.

His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief has been pleased to direct, that the following Rules and Regulations for the Sword Exercise shall be practised by the Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of the Regiments of Infantry in His Majesty's Service.

The Commander-in-Chief enjoins the Commanding Officers of Regiments to take care, that the Officers and Non-commissioned Officers under their command are made perfect in this Exercise; and General Officers making Reviews, or Inspections of Regiments, are hereby directed to specify in their Reports, whether the Officers and Non-commissioned Officers have been properly instructed in the Sword Exercise.

The Instructions which accompanied the General Orders of the 1st February, 1817, and 1st May, 1818, having been embodied in the following Regulations, the General Orders of those dates are hereby cancelled.

By Command of
His Royal Highness
The Commander-in-Chief,

HARRY CALVERT,
Adjutant-General.

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#### EXPLANATION AND USE

OF THE

#### TARGET.

THE Target should be placed so as to have the centre rather below the height of a man's shoulder: from below this centre a line is drawn on the ground directly to the front; and, at the distance of about ten feet, the Recruit should be placed in the Position of Attention, with his left heel on the line, so that when he turns to the First Position of the Exercise, his right foot may cover it. The Circular Figure shews the seven Cuts and Guards. The Cuts are directed through the centre, distinguished by lines, and named according to that figure from which each Cut commences. The Guards are performed by holding the sword opposite, and in the inclination of the dotted lines, which have swordhilts attached to them, and, supposing the circular figure to be about the breadth and height of a man's body, the Cuts and Guards will be regulated according to the lines described upon the circle; nor should the Recruit be practised in any other mode until he has gained the proper direction of the Cuts, as well as the inclination of the blade, and position of the wrist, in forming the Guards.

The *Points*, or *Thrust*, should be directed, as marked in the Target, with the wrist towards No. 1, and the edge of the sword raised to the right, in the *First Point*; or towards No. 2, with the edge raised to the left, in the *Second Point*; and in the *Third Point*, with the wrist rising to the centre, the edge upwards to the right, and the Point directed as marked on the bottom of the circle.

The sectional lines of the Figures over the Target represent the Preparatory Positions.

# INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE,

&c. &c.

The Rules of Instruction are divided into Four Parts, viz.

PART I.

PREPARATORY POSITIONS and MOVEMENTS

PREVIOUS TO USING THE SWORD.

PART II.

POSITIONS WITH THE SWORD, SALUTE, CUTS, POINTS, GUARD, and PARRIES.

PART III.

ATTACK and DEFENCE.

PART IV.

PRACTICE DRILL with STICKS.

#### PART I.

# Of the Preparatory Positions and Movements previous to using the Sword.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Attention.

THE body is to be erect, the heels close together, and the hands hanging down on each side.

First
Extension
Motion.

This serves as a caution, and the motions tend to expand the chest, raise the head, throw back the shoulders, and strengthen the muscles of the back.

One. Bring the hands and arms to the front, the fingers lightly touching at the points and the nails downwards; then raise them in a circular direction well above the head, the ends of the fingers still touching, the

thumbs pointing to the rear, the elbows pressed back, and shoulders kept down.

Two. Separate and extend the arms and fingers, forcing them obliquely back, till they come extended on a line with the shoulders; and as they fall gradually from thence to the original position of Attention, endeavour, as much as possible, to elevate the neck and chest.

These two motions should be frequently practised, with the head turned as much as possible to the right or left, and the body kept square to the front; they should be repeated by fluglemen placed to the respective flanks:—this tends very materially to supple the neck, &c.

Three. Turn the palms of the hands to the front, and press back the thumbs with the arms extended, and raise them to the rear, till they meet above the head; the fingers pointing upwards, with the ends of the thumbs touching.

Four. Keep the arms and knees straight, and bend over till the hands touch the feet, the head being brought down in the same direction.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Five. With the arms flexible and easy from the shoulders, raise the body gradually, so as to resume the position of Attention.

The whole of these motions should be done very gradually, so as to feel the exertion of the muscles throughout.

First Position

in

Caution.

Three Motions.

One. Move the hands smartly to the rear, the left grasping the right arm just above the elbow, and the right supporting the left arm under the elbow.

Two. Make a half face to the left, turning on the heels, so that the back of the left touches the inside of the right heel; the head retaining its position to the front.

Three. Bring the right heel before the left, the feet at right angles, and the right foot pointing to the front; the shoulders square to the left, and the weight of the body resting on the left leg.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Second Position.

in

Caution.

Two Motions.

One.

Bend the knees gradually, keeping them as much apart as possible, without raising the heels, or changing the erect position of the body.

Two.

Step out smartly with the right foot about eighteen inches in line with the left heel; the weight of the body remaining on the left leg.

Balance Motions.

Caution.

One.

Move the right foot about eight inches to the rear of the left heel, the toe lightly touching the ground, with the heel perpendicular to it, forcing the knees well apart.

Two.

Raise the body gradually by the extension of the left leg.

Three.

Bend the left knee, resuming the position made previous to the second motion.

DIRECTIONS.

Four. Advance the right leg, and with a smart beat of the foot resume the Second Position,

from which the balance motions commenced.

First Position. Extending both knees, draw the right heel up to the left.

Third Position

in

Caution.

Two Motions.

One.

Incline the right side to the front, with the hip kept in, so that the shoulder and knee are perpendicular to the point of the foot.

Two.

Step out smartly to the front, about thirty-six inches, with the knee perpendicular to the instep; the left knee and foot kept straight and firm, the heels in a line, the body upright, and the shoulders square to the left.

Second

Extension

Caution.

Motions.

One.

Bring the arms to the front of the body

INF. SW. EX.

with the hands closed, and the knuckles uppermost, touching each other below the lower button of the jacket; raise them gradually (keeping the elbows on the same line with them) to the pit of the stomach, the knuckles of the fingers by degrees turning inwards; then, by forcing back the shoulders, the hands will be drawn apart, and the motion is completed, by sinking the elbows, and smartly extending the arms and fingers in a diagonal line with the right wrist as high as the head, the shoulders kept down, and the thumbs inclined to the right.

For beginners, this motion may be divided, by giving the word *Prepare*, for the first part; and remaining perfectly steady, when the hands are brought to the breast ready to separate; then give the word *One*, for the motion to be completed.

Two.

Close the right hand, and draw it in to the shoulder, at the same time inclining the body forward, until the right elbow rests upon the point of the knee; the left arm rising gradually, and remaining extended, as the body advances, so as to bring the wrist as high as the head, which must be well kept up. Three. Raise the upper part of the body, drawing in the elbow, and, when nearly upright, extend the right arm smartly, and open the hand; thereby resuming the position formed by the first motion.

Four. Raise the body by extending the right leg.

Five. Bend the right knee and advance the body, so as to resume the position in the first motion.

First Position. Spring up with the arms to the rear, and the right heel close to the left, which forms the First Position, as before described.

Front. Come smartly to the position of Attention, bringing the hands and feet, in one motion, to their proper places.

In the foregoing instructions, the Positions and Movements preparatory to using the Sword have been explained, giving a separate word of command for each motion respectively. The same positions may now be gone through, naming only in the word of command the Position or Movement required, and distinguishing it by the numbers Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

One, Two, &c. &c. It is intended by this to practise the recruit in changing from the different positions readily, and without losing his balance, which will almost invariably rest upon the left leg.

Positions Caution. by Numbers. One. Raising the arms to the rear, and the right heel to the front, come at once to the First Position. Two. Come to the Second Position. Three. — to the Third Position. Two. —— to the Second Position. One. - to the First Position. Three. —— to the Third Position. First. Ba-Spring up to the position, as shown in the First Balance Motion. lance Motion. Three. Step out to the Third Position. First. Spring up as before. Balance Motion. Step out to the Second Position. Two.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Single Attack. Raise the right foot, and beat it smartly on the ground.

Double Attack. Raise the right foot, and beat it as before, twice on the ground; first with the heel, and then with the flat of the foot.

Advance. Move forward the right foot about six inches, and place it smartly on the ground; then bring the left foot lightly about the same distance.

Single Attack.

As before.

Retire. Move the left foot lightly to the rear about six inches, the whole weight and balance of the body still continuing to rest upon it; then move the right foot back the same distance, and place it smartly on the ground.

Double Attack.

As before.

Front. Draw back the right foot, and resume the position of Attention.

The object of the preceding portion of the Drill, as Positions and Movements preparatory to using the sword, is to give a free and active use of the limbs: a thorough command of which, with the knowledge of the best mode of position, in applying the force of the muscular powers, will

not only facilitate and give great advantage in the use of the sword, but tend to insure a proper efficacy to the cuts and guards; enabling the beginner to gain more easily that pliability, as well as strength in his position, which may be required either for assault, defence, or in quickly returning the attack upon his adversary. The instructor should prove the firmness of the positions by bearing equally, and firmly, on the shoulders of the recruit, and during the changes in forming the Second Position, and Balance Motions; when in the First of the Second Extension Motions, by taking hold of his right wrist with both hands, and bearing upon it in the direction of the left leg, upon the line of which the right arm should be, if properly placed; and making him also, in each position, move the right toe up and down, without its motion affecting the body. In all positions where both knees are bent, the more so they are the better; as a greater spring and elasticity will be gained in forming quickly any other The body must be generally (and indeed position. almost always) balanced, and rest upon the left leg; by which means greater flexibility is allowed to the right leg in moving forward to gain distance upon an adversary, or vice versa, in retiring from his reach. No precise length can be assigned in moving the right leg to the front in the Third Position, as it depends upon the length and stride of the person; but it should not be beyond what may allow of his return to the First or Second Position with quickness, and a perfect facility to himself. this Section of the exercise is practised as a Drill for the limbs only, it should be performed with the left shoulder and foot to the front, as well as with the right.

#### PART II.

Of the Cuts, Points, Guards, and Parries.

THE Recruit, being perfectly instructed in the preparatory movements, may now take the sword; making him acquainted with the strong and weak parts of it; the forte (strong), being the half of the blade near the guard; the foible (weak), the half towards the point. Indeed a knowledge of these distinctions is very material, either in giving or guarding a cut, as much depends upon their proper application. From the guard upwards, in opposing the blade of an adversary, the strength decreases in proportion as it is received towards the point; and, vice versa, it increases from the point downwards. The forte ought always to gain the foible of the opponent's weapon, and the cuts should be given within eight inches of the point, that the sword may clear itself. In delivering a cut, it is advantageous if the forte meets the adversary's foible, as it will of course force his guard. The sword should be held flexible, and easy in the hand, but yet sufficiently firm to resist the cut of an adversary; and to give a cut or thrust with proper force and pre-The middle knuckles are to be in the direction of the edge in all cuts and guards. If the sword is light, the thumb may be placed along the back of the handle; if heavy, the gripe of the handle should be held by the thumb and fingers around it. According to the directions stated in the Explanation of the Target, the recruit should now be placed before it; or he may be previously instructed in the drawing, returning, carrying, sloping swords, saluting, &c.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Take hold of the scabbard of the sword  $Draw\ Swords.$ with the left hand, just below the hilt, which should be raised as high as the hip; then bend and raise the right arm to the front, as high as the shoulder, and move it across the body, until the hand seizes the hilt, turning it at the same time to the rear. -By a second motion draw the sword from the scabbard with an extended arm, the edge being to the rear; and lower the hand until the hilt is in line with the chin, the blade perpendicular, and edge to the left, which forms the position of Recover Swords.—By a third motion lower the wrist below, and in line with, the right hip, the elbow being drawn back, and the arm extended as much as it can be with ease; the hand slightly grasping the sword, but ready, by the contraction of the fingers, to resume a firm hold.—The upper part of the sword will then be in the hollow of the right shoulder, with the edge to the front, which brings it to the position of Carry Swords.—The left hand, in dropping the scabbard as soon as the sword is drawn,

Port Swords. Bring the sword diagonally across the body with the edge downwards, and, by bending the left elbow, raise the hand as

remains as in the position of Attention.

high as the shoulder, taking hold of the blade between the thumb and fore-finger, the knuckles being to the front, and the thumb extended towards the point of the sword.

Salute.

Lower the left arm, and raise the right to the position of Recover Swords, with the thumb extended on the side of the handle; then, without pause, gradually sink the wrist to the right, clear of the body, and rather in advance of the thigh, the arm extended, the elbow drawn in, and the sword lowered in the direction of the right foot until the point is a few inches from the ground, with the edge to the left.—The left arm is at the same time to be raised to the left, as high as the shoulder, and brought gradually round with a circular motion, until the hand touches the peak of the cap, the knuckles being upwards, and the elbow raised.

The Salute in line is to be performed at the second and third motion of Present Arms: but, on passing a superior officer in review order, the Salute should commence when ten paces distant from him, allowing four paces for both motions, which should now be blended into one, with a circular and graceful movement of the arm in coming up to the Recover, for the effect of the Salute depends chiefly upon the manner and address with which it is given; the head and eyes being also turned towards the

person for whom the compliment is intended: having passed him about six paces, the sword is again brought to its original position. The Salute invariably commences as the left foot comes to the ground, and the same rule is followed in returning it to the Recover.

Port Swords. Resume the position of Recover Swords; and by a second motion come to the Port.

Carry Swords. As directed under the third motion of Draw Swords.

Slope Swords. The hand is carried to the front in line with the elbow, which now becomes close to the hip, with the sword resting upon the shoulder, and the edge being to the front.

Stand at Ease. Bring the hands together, the left supporting the right; the back of the sword resting on the inside of the left arm, the right instep drawn close to the left heel, and the left knee slightly bent.

The preceding directions for Standing at Ease are only meant to apply when the officers are in front of the line, or at *Open Order*; as in the ranks, or at *Close Order*, the point should be lowered between the feet, the edge to the right, the hands together, with the left uppermost.

Carry Swords.

As before.

Return Swords. Bring the hilt to the hollow of the left shoulder, the blade being perpendicular, and the back of the hand to the front; then by a sharp turn of the wrist drop the point into the scabbard, turning the edge to the rear, until the hand and elbow are in a line with each other across the body; by a second motion replace the sword in the scabbard, keeping the hand upon the hilt, until withdrawn by a motion from the flugleman.

Great care should be taken to preserve the edge of the blade, by allowing the back alone to bear upon the scabbard.

During a march, or in close order for manœuvres, the sword may be carried with an extended arm, letting the outward part of the guard rest upon the inside of the fingers, with the thumb above it; the blade being perpendicular, and the back, near the point, in the hollow of the shoulder.

Prepare to Being at the position of Attention, with perform sloped swords, turn the body and feet to Sword Exer- the First Position, with the left hand cise. resting upon the hip and thumb to the rear.

Right, Prove Extend the arm to the right, and lower Distance. the sword in a horizontal direction from the shoulder, with the edge to the rear, and the left shoulder brought square to the front.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Slope Swords.

As before.

Front, Prove Distance.

Step out to the *Third Position*, and extend the arm, lowering the point of the sword towards the centre of the target, with the edge to the right.

Slope Swords.

As before.

In both movements of proving distance, the fore-finger and thumb should be stretched along the handle, the thumb being on the back, with the end or pommel of the hilt in the palm of the hand.

Guard.

Advance the point of the sword, extending the arm towards the centre of the target; the edge downwards, and thumb along the back of the handle: then, without pause, step out smartly to the Second Position, bending and raising the elbow, the hand being directly over the right foot, and turn the edge of the sword upwards to the right with the point lowered, and inclining to the left, so as to form an angle, through which the opponent should always be seen; the left shoulder brought a little forward, and the hilt of the sword inclining towards No. 1, and the point directed rather below, and to the left of No. 4.

Inside Guard. Lower the wrist with the knuckles down and over the foot; the point to the front,

Two.

the edge to the left, and the hand as low as the elbow, which is to be nearly on a level with, and in front of, the upper part of the hip; at the same time make the *single attack*. The wrist is here inclined towards No. 4; the point towards No. 1.

Outside Guard. Turn the wrist with the nails downwards and bring the edge to the right, repeating the single attack; the hand inclining to No. 3; the point towards No. 2.

Assault. Draw up to the First Position, and raise the right arm to the front, with the wrist opposite No. 1, and the elbow rather bent towards the centre of the circular figure; the back of the sword near the point, resting on the shoulder with the edge inclined to the right.

One. Extending the arm, direct the cut to the front in a diagonal line from right to left, as shown from No. 1 to No. 4; and as the point clears the circle, turn the knuckles upwards, and continue the sweep of the sword, so as to bring the point to the rear of the left shoulder, upon which it rests, with the edge inclined to the left, and the wrist opposite No. 2.

Direct the cut diagonally from No. 2 to No. 3, and turn the wrist, so that the sword continues its motion till it rises

perpendicular to it, with the edge to the rear, and the arm extended to the right, on a level with the shoulder.

Three.

Cut diagonally upwards from No. 3 to No. 2, and continue the motion of the wrist so as to bring it to the hollow of the left shoulder, with the point of the sword perpendicular to it, and the edge to the rear.

Four.

Cut diagonally upwards from No. 4 to No. 1, and carry the sword to the right, turning the knuckles downwards, with the wrist as high as the shoulder, and the edge to the rear.

Five.

Cut horizontally from No. 5 to No. 6, and turn the knuckles up, with the edge of the sword to the left, and point to the rear, over the left shoulder.

Six.

Cut horizontally from No. 6 to No. 5, and bring the hand in the direction of No. 7; the sword being on the same line over the head, with the point lowered to the rear, and the edge uppermost.

Seven.

Cut vertically downwards from No. 7 to the centre of the circle, and remain with the arm extended, placing the thumb along the back of the handle, with the left shoulder well pressed back.

DIRECTIONS.

First Point. Turn the wrist with the edge of the sword upwards to the right, drawing back the hand just above and in front of the right eye; the elbow well bent, and raised, and the left shoulder brought a little forward. By a second motion, extend the arm, and deliver the point smartly to the front in the direction of the centre of the Target, with the wrist inclining to No. 1, and press back the left shoulder, so as to advance the right, which should be equally attended to in the second and third Points also.

In this, and throughout the Instructions, where a second motion is required, the word of command Two must be given, unless the practice is carrying on with a flugleman.

Second Point. Turn the edge upwards to the left, and draw in the elbow close to the body, with the wrist in a line above it, as high as, and in front of, the breast. By a second motion deliver the point as before directed, the wrist inclining to No. 2, and the edge raised with the knuckles downwards.

Third Point. Draw in the arm till the wrist touches the upper part of the hip; the edge raised to the right, the left shoulder advanced and the hips well thrown back. By a second motion deliver the point in the di-

rection as marked on the Target, and raising the wrist towards the centre.

Guards. This serves as a caution for the seven guards which follow, distinguished in the words of command by First, Second, &c.

First. Turn the edge to the left, the thumb resuming its grasp of the handle, and draw in the elbow close to the body; the wrist being kept to the front, and the sword placed opposite the diagonal line, as shown in the Target by the hilt marked First Guard.

In this, and in all the following Guards, the point should be advanced rather to the front.

Second. Turn the wrist with the knuckles uppermost, and the edge to the right; the sword placed opposite the diagonal line with the hilt marked Second Guard.

Third. Turn the wrist and edge to the left, nearly as high as the shoulder, with the point lowered to the right; the sword being held towards the diagonal line from the hilt marked Third Guard.

Fourth. Turn the wrist and edge to the right, with the point to the left; the sword held towards the diagonal line from the hilt marked Fourth Guard.

Fifth. Turn the edge to the left, with the wrist as high as the shoulder, to the front and left of the body; the sword being placed opposite the perpendicular line from the hilt marked Fifth Guard.

Sixth. Turn the wrist and edge to the right, so as to bring the sword opposite the perpendicular line from the hilt marked Sixth Guard.

Seventh. Raise the hand above, and in advance of, the right ear; the elbow being raised, and well kept back, with the left shoulder slightly brought forward, and the sword in the direction of the line from the hilt marked Seventh Guard.

Left Parry. Lower the wrist nearly close to the right shoulder, with the thumb at the back of the handle, and the edge to the right; the hips well pressed back, and the sword opposite the centre perpendicular line. By a second motion turn the wrist, so that the point falls to the rear, and forms a circle from left to right of your body, and again returns to its former position.

Right Parry. Drop the point to the rear, and by the turn of the wrist continue the motion, so as to form a circle from right to left of

your body; the sword returning to its position as before.

The Cuts and Guards may now be combined; and here it is more particularly intended to practise the recruit in shewing the guard for each cut, so as to impress it on his recollection. The cuts should be given from the wrist to the full extent of the arm to the front, and in the Third Position; with the cut directed no further than the centre of the circle, opposite which the point should remain.

Left Cheek. Step out to the Third Position, and deliver the cut One towards the centre of the Target, opposite to which the point is to remain steady with the arm extended, and the wrist kept well up in this, as in all the following cuts.

First Guard. Spring up to the First Position, and form the First Guard.

Right Cheek. Deliver cut Two, and remain as before.

Second Guard. Spring up to the Second Guard, &c.

Wrist. Deliver the cut Three, &c.

Third Guard. Spring up to Third Guard, &c.

Leg. Deliver cut Four, the point not carried above the height of the knee, &c.

Fourth Guard. Spring up to Fourth Guard, low down, and arm extended, &c.

Left Side. Deliver the cut Five, &c.

Fifth Guard. Spring up to Fifth Guard, &c.

Right Side. Deliver cut Six, &c.

Sixth Guard. Spring up to Sixth Guard, &c.

Head. Deliver cut Seven, &c.

Seventh Guard. Spring up to Seventh Guard, &c.

First Point. As before directed, but the second motion given in the Third Position.

Left Parry. Spring up to First Position, and parry.

Second Point. As before, in Third Position.

Right Parry. As before, in First Position.

Third Point. As before, in Third Position.

Right and Form both Parries on drawing up to Left Parry. the First Position.

DIRECTIONS.

Guard. As before directed, in the Second Position.

Slope Swords. As usual, drawing up to the First Position.

When performing by flugleman, the practice of the Assault should also be made as follows: The elbow is lightly bent, and the wrist turned sufficiently to deliver the cut One; the hand being brought to the front, and about the height of the face, so as to be in the direction of the centre of the Target, with the hips pressed well back. The seven cuts are then delivered without any material pause between them, as, by the proper and timely turn of the wrist, each cut will lead into the other, and consequently blend their force together: the cuts should be given strong with the edge leading forwards, the wrist retaining its direction to the front, as much as possible, without moving to the right or left; and in returning to prepare for another cut, the edge should be drawn back nearly in the same line; the arm being a little bent, so as to allow a free play of the elbow and shoulder, in giving effective force to the cut, and then extended to the utmost in the delivery of it. Whenever the recruit fails to carry the edge well in making the Assault, he should be practised in combining the cuts One and Four, repeating them several times: also Two and Three, and Five and Six; taking care that the edge leads on the respective lines in the Target, the wrist being darted towards the centre in each cut.

END OF THE SECOND PART.

## PART III.

# Of the Attack and Defence.

THE Drill being now complete in the formation of the Cuts, and their respective Guards, may put them in practice according to a regular mode of exercise, as follows:-

The whole are drawn up in Two, Four, or more Ranks, in the same proportion, so as to be well under the eye of the instructor; each rank being three paces, and the files two paces and a half, distant from each other. In this formation the whole of the preceding drill may be gone through, either by separate words of command, or with a flugleman.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Front Rank Files. Rear Rank Files.

Front (or alternate) Ranks,

Come to the Right about.

Right about Face.

The Files oppose each other in the Prepare to per-First Position, with sloped swords, as form Attack shewn in Sec. 2nd, in preparing to perform and Defence. Sword Exercise.

Each file extends the arm with the Prove Distance. knuckles uppermost, and sword horizon-

DIRECTIONS.

Front Rank Files.

Rear Rank Files.

tally on a line with the shoulder, so that the point of each blade slightly touches the guard of the other; the hips well kept back; the Front Rank having their swords uppermost; and the Rear Rank giving way, or advancing, if requisite, to the proper measure.

Slope Swords.

Files slope Swords.

Guard.

The whole step out to Guard.

Inside Guard. With the Single Attack, the Files engage on the Inside Guard; the swords joining about eight inches from the point.

Outside Guard. Repeating the Single Attack, change to the Outside Guard; the swords joining, &c.

Left Cheek. Step out to Third Spring up to First

Position, and deliver Position, with First
the cut One. Guard.

Right Cheek. Spring up to First Step out to Third Position with Second Position, and cut Guard.

### DIRECTIONS.

Front Rank Files.		Rear Rank Files.	
Wrist.	Cut Three, in Third Position.	Form Third Guard in First Position.	
Leg.	Form Fourth Guard in First Position, low down, with the arm extended.	Cut Four in Third Position.	
Left Side.	Cut Five, &c.	Fifth Guard, &c.	
Right Side.	Sixth Guard, &c.	Cut Six, &c.	
Head.	Cut Seven, &c.	Seventh Guard, &c.	
First Point.	Left Parry, springing up to First Position, and ready to deliver Third Point.	Point, &c.	
Third Point	Deliver Third Point.	Left Parry, &c. and ready to return Third Point.	
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The Second Point is omitted in the practice with swords, as, in delivering it, the assailant's wrist is liable to be struck by the Right Parry, or he may be disarmed by the Left Parry, and accidents would consequently occur; but the Recruit should be fully instructed to avail himself of the Second Point, and both Parries, when opposed to an enemy.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Guard.

Files to Guard in Second Position.

Slope Swords.

Slope Swords in First Position.

As this and the following practices in the present Section are not intended for loose practice, but to shew the different applications of the Cuts and Guards; both, and particularly the Cuts, should be given with the same precision, as at the Target; nor should one sword bear upon the other, but the wrist be kept well up, and ready to renew any requisite movement. Most particular attention should be observed that, after proving distance, the Files do not move their left feet. The Feint with the point, and advantage of shifting the leg, (when engaged at the proper distance,) in preference to the Guard, is shewn by the following Practice.

Feint Point, and shift the Leg, in Five Motions.

Caution.

Front Rank Files.

Rear Rank Files.

Guard.

Files to Guard.

One.

Prepare to give Third Point, remaining in Second Position.

Prepare to Parry, remaining in Second Position.

Two.

Advance the point towards the body, and by a quick motion of the wrist, raise it and avoid the Parry, giving the point of the sword a sweep round the head, ready to cut One, and stepping out to Third Position.

Left Parry, which not meeting the opponent's blade, rise to First Guard in First Position.

Three.

Cut One at Left Cheek.

Remain steady with *First Guard*.

Four.

Spring up to First Position, with the sword over the left shoulder ready to cut Two.

Cut Four at Leg in Third Position.

Front Rank Files.

Rear Rank Files.

Five.

Cut Two at shoulder, but with caution and lightly, as the Rear Rank File does not guard it; being merely to shew the advantage of shifting the leg, and delivering a cut at the same instant.

Remain steady, and receive the cut.

Guard.

Files to Guard.

Slope Swords.

Files Slope Swords.

This practice should be afterwards performed in three motions, by combining the second and third motions into one; and the fourth and fifth into one also.

The following practice is to exercise the Drill in giving, defending, and returning the point quickly; and it may be continued eight or ten times, giving a quick successive word of command, according to the ability of the parties engaged.

Give Point and Parry in Second Position, by the numbers

Two and One.

Caution.

Slope Swords.

DIRECTIONS.

Front Rank Files. Rear Rank Files. Guard. Files to Guard. Point. Prepare to Parry. Prepare to give Third Point. Two. Left Parry, with Advance the body by the extension of the body and hips the left leg, and give well back, and bring Third Point, which the sword ready to when parried, draw give Third Point. back the arm, ready to parry: One. Draw back the Advance the bobody, dy and give Third and Left Parry, &c. Point, &c. Guard. Files to Guard.

Equal practice may be given to all by the Caution which Rank is to commence; the Front Rank always doing so, unless otherwise directed.

Files Slope Swords.

The Squads should occasionally be formed rank entire; and it is good practice to put them through the *Guards* and *Points*, in each position, particularly in the *First*; and also to change frequently from *First* to *Third*, and from *Second* to *Third*, in *Giving Point*.

END OF THE THIRD PART.

# PART IV.

# Of the Practice Drill with Sticks.

As no exercise with the Sword can be brought to perfection without some species of loose or independent practice, Sticks should be substituted for Swords in the present instance, as, in Fencing, Foils are used for the acquirement of that Science.

The *Point* also is to be occasionally substituted for the *Cut*, and defended by the same *Guard* as for the latter; and as a thrust should always be given, if a good opportunity and opening is offered, such an advantage should be taken of the practice with sticks, and the thrust delivered by an immediate extension of the arm, when the point is in the proper line of direction.

In the following directions the word Sword is retained, although the practice is with Sticks, which should be about thirty-eight inches long, and not so weak as to bend; and the leather practising-hilts merely large enough to cover the hand, without confining it; strong wire masks ought always to be used, as it enables those who practise to cut or thrust with more confidence.

The Ranks are placed opposite to each other in First Position, with sloped swords; having previously proved their distance, and are ordered as follows for the Practice by Numbers:—

Words of Command. DIRECTIONS.		
		-
	Front Rank Files.	Rear Rank Files.
First Divis	ion. Cautio	on.
Engage	Files to G	 Fuard.
**************************************		
Inside Gu	ard. To inside	e Guard.
		<del></del>
Outside Gu	aard. To outside	le Guard.
	State - Ta	
One.	Cut One at Face	First Guard in
	in Third Position.	First Position.
	~	
Two.	Second Guard in	Cut Two at Face
	First Position.	in Third Position.
		<del></del>
Three.	Cut Three at Wrist	Third Guard in
	in Third Position.	First Position.
		<del></del>
Four.	Fourth Guard in	Cut Four at Leg
	First Position.	in <i>Third</i> Position.

### DIRECTIONS.

	Front Rank Files.	Rear Rank Files.
Five.	Cut Five at left side in Third Position.	Fifth Guard in First Position.
	Million willing	
Six.	Sixth Guard in First Position.	Cut six at Right Side in <i>Third</i> Position.
	<del></del>	<del></del>
Seven.	Cut Seven at head in Third Position.	Seventh Guard in First Position.
		-
		red after each division, on they are required to
Second Divi	ision.	Caution.
Engage.	(	Juard.
		Pit-state and
One.	First Point in Third Position.	First Guard in First Position.
		-
Two.	Second Guard in First Position.	Second Point in Third Position.
	<del></del>	-

DIRECTIONS.

	Front Rank Files.	Rear Rank Files.
		-
Three.	First Point in Third Position.	Third Guard in First Position.
		-
Four.	Fourth Guard in First Position.	Second Point in Third Position.
	<del></del>	
Five.	Second Point in Third Position.	Fifth Guard in First Position.
Six.	Sixth Guard in First Position.	First Point in Third Position.

In this Division, the Files on the defensive should give sufficient opening for the *Point*, springing up to the *First Position*, and forming the defence at the instant of the thrust, which is always directed at the body, according as the wrist is previously placed, either in *engaging*, or after having formed a *Guard*; except in delivering the thrust from the *Fourth Guard*, when the quick turning of the wrist gives the point a better direction. The attacking File should also be attentive to raise his wrist, and oppose the edge of his own to that of his opponent's sword, immediately he finds the thrust is parried, or the point thrown out of the line.

DIRECTIONS.

Front Rank Files.

Rear Rank Files.

Third Division.

Caution.

Engage.

Files to Inside Guard.

Two.

Step out to *Third*Position, and cut

Two (lightly) below
the knee.

Extend the left knee, with the arm raised ready to cut *One*.

One.

Remain in *Third Position*, guard the head, bringing up left shoulder.

Cut One at head, remaining in Second Position, with the left knee extended.

Two.

Cut Two as before, throwing back the left shoulder, so as to advance the right. Raise the hand as before to cut One.

To give proper distance for the movements in this Division, the Rear Rank File moves back his left leg on coming to *Engage*, and brings it up again at *Slope Swords*. The thrust at the body may also be substituted for the cut at the leg, the Rear Rank File defending by the *Sixth Guard*, and returning the cut at the head, as directed.

DIRECTIONS.

Front Rank Files.

Rear Rank Files.

Fourth Division.

Caution.

Engage.

Files to Inside Guard.

Two. Cut Seven at head or Two at less

head, or Two at leg, in Third Position, as appears most advantageous.

First Position and Seventh Guard, which defends either cut.

Fifth Division.

Caution.

Engage.

Files to Inside Guard.

Two.

Cut Six at leg, in Third Position.

First Position, and cut Six (lightly) at neck.

Sixth Division.

Caution.

Engage.

Files to Inside Guard.

Two.

Cut Two at arm, remaining in Second Position.

Second Guard, remaining in Second Position.

DIRECTIONS.

Front Rank Files.

Rear Rank Files.

Seventh Division.

Caution.

Engage.

Files to Outside Guard.

Two. Cut Three at wrist, remaining in Second Position.

Third Guard, remaining in Second Position.

Eighth Division.

Caution.

Engage.

Files to Outside Guard.

Two. Cut Three at wrist, remaining in Second Position.

Slip the wrist to the hip, with the point to the left, allowing the opponent's sword to pass the line of direction.

Three. Draw the arm back to Second Guard, still remaining in Second Position.

Cut Two at arm, remaining in Second Position.

In the three preceding Divisions, sufficient opening should be given for the Cut, and the left knee extended in the delivery of it; and, when forming the defensive Guard in the Second Position, the hand should be kept over the level of the right foot, with the point directed to the front.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Front Rank Files.

Rear Rank Files.

Ninth Division.

Caution.

Engage.

Files to Inside Guard.

One.

Feint Cut Two, Outside Guard, and shift leg to and Single Attack.

First Position.

20,00 2 00000

Two. Cut One at breast, I in Third Position. Fir

First Guard in First Position.

As the *Engage*, and *One*, in the three following practices, are the same as in the preceding one, the directions for them are not repeated.

(2d) Two. Cut Three at Third Guard in wrist, in Third Po-First Position.

	Front Rank Files.	Rear Rank Files.	
(3d) <b>Tw</b> o.	Cut Five at leg, in Third Position.	Cut Five at breast (lightly), in First Position.	
(4th) Two.	Cut Three at leg, in Third Position.	Third Guard (low) in Second Position, and extend left knee.	
Three.	Remain in Third  Position, and cut  One at breast.	Cut Six at leg, (lightly), and shift to First Position, and First Guard.	
—— Tenth Divisi	on. Cauti	 on.	
Engage.	Files to Out	side Guard.	
One.	Feint Cut One, and shift leg to First Position.	Inside Guard, and Single Attack.	
$\overline{Two}.$	Cut Two at arm, in Third Position.	Second Guard in First Position.	

The *Engage*, and *One*, through the following practices, as in the preceding one, and the directions are consequently not repeated.

Words of Command.

DIRECTIONS.

•	-	<del></del>
	Front Rank Files.	Rear Rank Files.
(2d) Two.	Cut Six at right side, in Third Position.	Sixth Guard in First Position.
<del></del>		
(3d) Two.	Cut $Six$ at leg, in Third Position.	Cut Six at neck (lightly), in First Position.
	· ·	
(4th) Two.	Cut Four at leg, in Third Position.	Fourth Guard in Second Position, and extend left knee.
	**************************************	
Three.	Remain in <i>Third</i> Position, and cut  Two at neck.	Cut Five at leg (lightly), and shift to First Position and Second Guard.

In the First and Second Practices of the two last Divisions, the Thrust should be occasionally given at the body, instead of the Cut.

It is good practice, in the Drill with Sticks, for each movement of Attack, or Defence, first to be performed in two motions, by repeating each number, the stick slightly touching the part to which it is directed, and the defence only formed when the number is given a second time: this enables the Instructor to see that the Attacking Files give their *Cuts* and *Thrusts* fully home, and according to rule; and that the Files on the defensive come to a firm and correct position: it also greatly assists them in judging exactly where the weapons should cross each other.

As, in the preceding Section, the whole should be reversed, by the Rear Rank commencing, instead of the Front; and, when perfect by word of command, they should be exercised by Division, the caution for this practice being given after the distance is proved, viz., "Practice by Division," to distinguish it from the "Practice by Numbers." In the practice by Numbers each Division may be kept up as long as requisite, by the Instructor repeating the Numbers, and "Engage," except in the First, Second, Third, and Eighth Divisions, where the numbers only are repeated; and in the practice by Division each is continued also, without any further word of command, until (in both practices) the Division is finished by the order to "Slope Swords."

A Feint is a half cut, or thrust, menacing an attack on one part, whilst the intention is to direct it at another; and the cut, or thrust, may be given immediately after the feint, without shifting the leg, when practising by Division.

Particular attention should be paid, that in the Attack the wrist preserves, as much as possible, the line of direction; and, in each position of defence, that it only deviates sufficiently to form the guard, taking care to

have the wrist, elbow, and shoulder, supple and easy, so as to be ready to deliver a cut, thrust, or any movement of Attack or Defence.

When perfectly exercised and complete in the whole of the above Drill, the Independent Practice may be tried (under proper control) by the Files opposing each other as in Single Combat, with swords; and delivering such cuts, or thrusts, as their judgment points out; avoiding, however, if possible, both making the Attack at the same time, as the object should be to defend well, and immediately return upon their adversary; nor should their cuts, or thrusts, be given too strongly, as in friendly practice any unpleasant accidents should be avoided; and the moment either party is touched, they must stop, and, after a pause, engage again at the proper distance, which should always be cautiously preserved. As it is supposed that the Stick is the substitute for the Sword, the cut is only considered fair, and effective, when given with that part which would, of course, correspond with the edge: nor should any thing be attempted with the Stick which could not be performed with the Sword.

It would be useless to endeavour to state which are the best movements, as that must depend entirely on the judgment of the parties engaged, and their respective abilities; but as the loose play should not be allowed until a sufficient competency is attained by the parties, and they have been thoroughly instructed in the movements of Attack and Defence, they can never find themselves at a loss, if the Science is followed up by sufficient practice and attention to the instructions they have received.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

AND

## Directions.

THE Exercise of the Sword consists of Seven Cuts, or directions of the Edge; the same number of Guards, or defensive Positions; the Point (or Thrust) given with the nails up or down; and two circular motions of the Blade, termed Parries:—therefore, whatever may be the Attack, or Defence, it can only be formed by having recourse to some of the above movements, or a combination of them.

In Engaging, by which is meant the action of joining the sword of an opponent, either previous to his or your own Attack, there should be only a slight pressure on his blade, so that the hand, or wrist, may be the more susceptible of any motions he may make; and though the Position termed *Guard* affords protection at the moment, it is merely considered as preparatory to any offensive or defensive movement, varying the latter according to the Points liable to be attacked.

In all Attacks, whether Cuts or Thrusts, the motion ought to increase in speed, the impetus being given at the last: the same rule should be observed in stepping out to the *Second* and *Third* Position. But, in recovering, the reverse is to be followed, as the first part is the

quickest; and nothing can be of more importance than that the eye should follow those of an opponent, and slightly glance at the part at which you intend to cut or thrust; taking care never to look at your own sword, which will invariably follow the eye wherever you direct it.

It is merely Drill Practice in making the Assault by Numbers, and although each Cut has its Guard according to the number, which answers for both, yet it does not follow that the File on the Defensive is always to have recourse to it, as he may frequently be enabled to secure himself more effectively, and quicker, by forming another If, for example, he makes the cut Six at the body, and his opponent, after defending by the Sixth Guard, returns the cut One at the breast, then the Fifth Guard becomes the quickest movement of defence; but if the opponent has defended by the Second Guard previous to his return of the cut One, then the First Guard is the soonest formed; consequently, the First and Fifth Guards each defends the cuts One or Five. The Second and Sixth Guards each defends the cut Two or Six, according as they may be given high or low; and if the Third or Fourth Guards are required for the defence of the leg, the arm must be extended, so that the forte of the blade may receive the foible of the opponent's weapon; bearing well in mind, however, that in all cuts at the leg, when at the proper distance, the shifting of your own leg, and delivering a cut at the same moment, becomes the most effective and advantageous defence; and which is still more so to a tall man (even in every part of the body) when engaged with another of lesser stature, or length of arm, as he will be out of his opponent's reach, whilst the latter may be within his. The power of defence does not, in fact, consist so much in your own strength

of position as in effecting a decided quick movement in that direction in which your opponent has the least power of resistance, especially in defending against the Point, when the First, Third, and Fifth Guards are the most effective against the First and Third Point; and the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Guards against the Second Point; provided the wrist is previously so placed, that the requisite Guards may be quickly executed. The two Parries must also be regulated by the position of the opponent's wrist, so that the bearing of your sword may tend to open his hand, and, if well judged, and timely given, will disarm him, or so cripple his wrist as to preclude even the capability of forming a defensive guard, or continuing the attack.

If opposed to the small sword, have recourse to the cuts Three and Four, directing them at the arm, by which means there is every probability of the cuts taking effect, as it must always in thrusting come within range of the Edge, before the Point can be sufficiently advanced to reach the body. If the above cuts are quickly given and continued, they will also be found advantageous in advancing against the small sword, as they form an Attack and Defence at the same instant: but should the opponent be the most skilful and quickest, then it is best to retire while forming them, cautiously preserving the proper distance, so that each cut may just reach the forepart of his arm.

The Second Point, if delivered as a first movement, should be given with great caution, the wrist being then so liable to the disarm. It should be resorted to chiefly in the return, or after a Feint from the outside or inside Guards; if from the former, feint Third Point under, and deliver Second Point over, the arm; if from the latter, feint

cut Two, and continue the sweep of the sword, until the point is sufficiently lowered to deliver without pause the Second Point at the body under the arm.

Although a regular mode is laid down for drawing the sword, yet occasional practice should be given to come to the *Guard* immediately, and at any required point, without going through the Parade Motions, &c., which will prepare the Swordsman for any sudden attack of an Enemy.

Many similar remarks will naturally occur to those who have had practical experience; and the Instructors should endeavour, as much as possible, in their progressive directions to the Recruit, to impress them upon his mind by such occasional observations as they become most applicable. Opportunities of thus explaining may often be taken during the pauses of rest, as no Squad should be kept too long either in the Positions or Movements; and where any Recruits are more deficient than the rest, the whole should be made to cease for the moment, and those who have gone wrong be required to correct their error.

## Mords of Command,

THROUGHOUT THE

## PROGRESSIVE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DRILL.

Those printed in Italics are to serve as a Caution only.

### FIRST PART.

Attention.

First Extension Motions.

One.—Two.—Three.—Four.—Five.

Stand at Ease.

#### Attention.

First Position in Three Motions.

One.—Two.—Three.

Second Position in Two Motions.

One.-Two.

Balance Motions.

One.—Two.—Three.—Four.

First Position.

Third Position in Two Motions.

One.—Two.

Second Extension Motions.

One.—Two.—Three.—Four.—Five.

First Position.

Front.

Stand at Ease.

Attention.

Positions by Numbers.

One.—Two.—Three.

Two.—One.—Three.

First Balance Motion.—Three.

First Balance Motion.—Two.

Single Attack.—Double Attack.

Advance.—Single Attack.

Retire. - Double Attack.

Front.

Stand at Ease.

Attention.

Draw Swords.

Slope Swords.

Prepare to perform Sword Exercise.

Right Prove Distance.

Slope Swords.

Front Prove Distance.

Slope Swords.

Guard.

Inside Guard. - Outside Guard.

Assault.\*

One.—Two.—Three.—Four.—Five.—Six.—Seven.

First Point.—Second Point.—Third Point.

Guards\*.

First.—Second.—Third.—Fourth.—Fifth.—Sixth.—Seventh.

Left Parry.—Right Parry.

Left Cheek.—First Guard.

Right Cheek .- Second Guard.

Wrist.-Third Guard.

Leg.—Fourth Guard.

Left Side.—Fifth Guard.

Right Side. - Sixth Guard.

Head.—Seventh Guard.

First Point.—Left Parry.

Second Point.—Right Parry.

Third Point.—Right and Left Parry.

Guard.

Slope Swords.

Stand at Ease.

<sup>\*</sup> If performed by a Fugleman the Numbers are omitted.

Attention.

Front Rank, Right about Face.

Prepare to perform Attack and Defence.

Prove Distance.

Slope Swords.

Guard.

Inside Guard.—Outside Guard.

Left Cheek.—Right Cheek.

Wrist.—Leg.

Left Side.—Right Side.—Head.

First Point.—Third Point.

Guard.

Slope Swords.

Feint Point, and Shift Leg; in Five Motions.

Guard.

One.—Two.—Three.—Four.—Five.

Guard.

Slope Swords.

The same Practice in Three Motions.

Guard.

One.—Two.—Three.

Guard.

Slope Swords.

Point and Parry in Second Position, by Numbers Two and One.

Guard.

Third Point.

Two.—One.—(Continuing them as long as requisite.)

Guard.

Slope Swords.

Stand at Ease.

FINIS.

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