ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

OF THE

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,

MADE TO

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

FOR

THE YEAR 1875.

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BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY.

OFFICE OF THE VICE-ADMIRAL,
Navy-Yard, New York, July 23, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to forward to the Department, by to-day's mail, the report of the Board of Visitors for West Point in June, 1875.

The members of the board desired me to sign the report for them; and those of the Senate and the House expressed a desire to join in the report, and also authorized me to sign for them.

I hope the arrangement will be satisfactory to the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. ROWAN,
Vice-Admiral U. S. N.

Hon. W. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War, War Department, Washington, D. C.

SIR: The Board of Visitors appointed to attend the annual examination of the United States Military Academy, met at West Point May 31, 1875, and were organized by the appointment of a chairman, a secretary, and three committees, on instruction, on discipline, and on fiscal affairs.

All the members of the board, including those appointed from the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives, with a single exception, were present most of the time from the commencement of the examination until its close, and participated in the various inquiries which were instituted by the board. In accordance with the law of Congress these inquiries related to "the discipline, instruction, police, administration, fiscal affairs, and other concerns of the institution."

In pursuing their examinations the board were aided efficiently by the superintendent, General Ruger, and all who are associated with him in the administration and instruction of the academy.

Every department of the institution was thrown open to inspection at any time. The books and accounts were freely accessible. In response to written inquiries, detailed statements were submitted to the board. All the officers showed great readiness in furnishing the information which was sought, and there were opportunities for free and informal conversation with the cadets.

The board took advantage of these means of acquiring knowledge, and were satisfied that the publicity with which every official act is performed and recorded protects the nation against the creeping in of serious abuses. More than this, the board were satisfied that in all de-

partments of the academy, accuracy, thoroughness, fidelity, and obedience to law are controlling principles, both in administration and in education.

In presenting a summary of their observations and reflections, the board are conscious that the time allotted has not been sufficient for them to pronounce a definite opinion on many of the subjects to which their attention has been directed.

The academy, as now organized, is the growth of more than seventy years. It evinces the wisdom of those who have made the laws, and of those who have administered them in Washington; it bears the impress of experienced teachers who have devoted their lives to the education of youth; it shows the influence of many able and successful superintendents; its efficiency has been proved in peace and war by the character of those who have here been trained; its results have called forth the pride and gratitude of the nation.

In such an institution as this, a conservative policy is indispensable. Ill-advised experiments are out of place, and changes of a serious character should not be made without deliberation and consultation. At the same time it should be borne in mind that great advances have been made during the last few years in scientific education. New institutions, with able teachers, generous endowments, admirable laboratories, costly instruments of experiment and observation, and extensive collections in the various branches of natural history have been established in different parts of the country.

The United States Military Academy should not be behind the best, in any respect. Whatever the experience of the world has shown to be of value in such an institution should be promptly adopted. The officers and teachers should have ample opportunity to maintain relations of friendly intercourse with the officers and teachers of kindred establishments; and the Government should provide the pecuniary means which will enable the academy, in all the progressive branches of science, to go forward as efficiently as any institution in the land.

Governed by these considerations, the Board of Visitors, notwithstanding the limited time at their command, present with freedom the suggestions upon which they have agreed, together with the principal facts to which their attention was called.

EXAMINATIONS.

The examination which was in progress during the session of the board, included the work of the last five months, from January to May.

Each of the four classes was brought in sections before the Academic Board, and was thoroughly questioned upon the topics studied. The black-board was freely used in all these examinations.

The first class, about to graduate, was examined in—

1. *Military engineering* and *the science of war.*
2. *Mineralogy* and *geology.*
3. *Law.*
4. *Ordnance* and *gunnery.*

The examinations appointed for the second class were:

1. *Natural philosophy.*
2. *Chemistry.*
3. *Tactics.*

For the third class:

1. *Mathematics.*
2. *Spanish.*

3. *French.*
4. *Drawing.*

For the fourth class:

1. *Mathematics.*
2. *French.*

These examinations partook somewhat of the character of an exhibition. The scholars were questioned in a large room, to which they were unaccustomed, and in the presence not only of the Secretary of War, of the Academic Board, and of the Board of Visitors, but of many other persons.

Such an exercise undoubtedly gives the scholar the advantage of testing his powers to recall and state his acquisitions under adverse circumstances, and in this respect is an excellent discipline.

It likewise affords a convenient opportunity for showing to all those who have any official responsibility the mode of instruction pursued in the different departments, and the relative, if not the actual, proficiency of the scholars; but there are many obvious disadvantages in the plan.

Mathematics.—The board were favorably impressed by the scholarship displayed in these examinations. The department of pure mathematics maintains its well-known pre-eminence, and the departments of applied mathematics, including philosophy and engineering, are likewise very good.

Engineering.—The board are of the opinion that the subject of "military engineering and the science of war" is of so much importance as to require the undivided attention of a professor, who should have the time and the opportunity to keep acquainted with the progress of his department in this and in other countries.

They are also of opinion, in view of the large number of persons who are trained at West Point for civil life, or who are likely to be engaged in the service of the Government as civil engineers, that greater prominence, in the course of instruction, should be given to civil engineering.

It should be remembered that Army engineers are employed upon the survey of the lakes, the improvement of interior rivers, and the construction of public works in different parts of the country. The board accordingly recommend that the professorship of engineering be divided, and that "civil engineering" be given to one chair, and "military science and the art of war" to another.

The day has already come when better rooms are requisite for the department of natural philosophy and chemistry, and the board commend to the authorities the preparation of plans for such a structure or structures as will meet the requirements of these important sciences.

Geology, &c.—It seems to the board also that, in consideration of the number of Army officers who are sent to the frontier and to regions comparatively unexplored, more attention should be given to the science of geology, mineralogy, and natural history.

It is quite doubtful whether more time can be allowed to these studies in the appointed curriculum, but the generous and skillful building up of collections in natural history and geology would awaken in many of the cadets an interest in these studies, and would enable many of the officers connected with the academy to prosecute their studies in this direction.

Drawing.—It seems to the board desirable that more attention should be paid to the various departments of what is sometimes called instrumental drawing, including topographical, architectural, and mechanical drawing. Elementary free-hand drawing is likewise important, but it seems to the board that the time given to landscapes, and to oil and

water colors, should be diminished if not devoted entirely to other subjects.

Law.—The board call attention to the fact that within the past year the chaplain has been relieved of his duties as an instructor in law, and a judge-advocate of the Army has been detailed to serve at West Point as professor of law. The examination in this study was creditable alike to the teacher and the class. The instructions have not been restricted to a text-book, but have been carried on by means of informal lectures and exercises, in which recent and interesting decisions on questions pertaining to the action of the Army and to international law, were brought forward for consideration.

The board are of opinion that the instructions of this chair are of the highest importance, and that the professorship should be permanent.

English.—The board recommend that the study of English be pursued, at intervals, through the entire course, upon a plan similar to that now adopted in several of the best colleges of the country; and accordingly they recommend that a professor of English be appointed to give instruction in the history, structure, and use of the English language and in its literature. Such a teacher would doubtless devise a series of disciplinary exercises in writing and in the training of the voice. Every cadet should certainly have sufficient practice with his pen to make him exact and ready in the preparation of reports, orders, and official statements.

Many of those who graduate at the academy are indeed accomplished in this respect, but no provision is made in the academy for the instruction of those whose literary cultivation has been neglected.

The course of study now provides in the very slightest degree for the study of history and literature; and it seems to the board that some instruction in these departments would not in fact interfere with the efficiency of the instruction in the mathematical and scientific branches, and would materially aid the acquisition of French and Spanish.

The board noticed a want of clear and distinct vocal utterance in those who were under examination, which might readily have been prevented if there had been an instructor in elocution, and the classes had been properly trained in the use of the vocal organs.

In recommending that more attention should be given to English, the visitors for the current year are confirmed by the recommendations of those who have been here in the like capacity on several former occasions.

STANDARD OF ADMISSION.

The Board of Visitors have given much consideration to the standard of admission and the results of the entrance-examinations, but are not agreed upon recommending any decided changes.

They would respectfully advise that the Secretary of War request each Representative in Congress, as a vacancy in the academy is reported to him, to nominate both a candidate and an alternate, so that if one is rejected the other may at once present himself for examination; and they would advise that both the candidate and the alternate be notified of their selection a year in advance of the examination, so that they may have full time for preparation.

The board would also recommend that the requirements for admission should be increased so as to include the entire amount of arithmetic commonly taught in the common schools, and algebra as far as quadratic equations. This degree of mathematical proficiency seems to the board to be quite within the reach of all candidates.

It is a very suggestive fact that in the last five years the average number of rejected candidates has been 6 per cent. for physical deficiency and 40 per cent. for deficiency in the scholastic requirements.

In the six New England States, where educational facilities are open to all, the rejections have been 35 per cent. of the number examined from that section.

From these statistics, it is clearly evident that in the schools of the country there is need of more thorough methods of instruction in the elementary branches.

At the request of a member of the board, Professor Church, who is one of the most experienced teachers of the country, made the following memorandum:

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,
June 12, 1875.

Referring to our conversation this morning, I have to say that, from my experience in the examination of candidates for admission to the Military Academy, I am satisfied that there is somewhere a serious defect in the system of instruction, or in its application, in the schools of our country for education in the elementary branches, particularly in arithmetic, reading, and spelling. I think our candidates are not as thoroughly prepared as they were twenty years ago.

Very respectfully, yours,

A. E. CHURCH, *Inspector*.

In illustration of these remarks the board submit the following papers which were presented to them:

No. 1. A tabular view of the number of cadets admitted to the academy, (1838 to 1874,) and of the number rejected, arranged by States.

No. 2. A tabular view of the number of candidates for admission appointed, admitted, and rejected, (1838 to 1874,) with the causes for their rejection.

No. 1.—*Table showing States from which were appointed candidates rejected by the Academic Board from* 1838 *to* 1874, *inclusive.*

Date.	Alabama.		Arizona.		Arkansas.		California.		Colorado.		Connecticut.		Dakota.		Delaware.		District of Columbia.		Florida.		Georgia.		Idaho.		Illinois.		Indiana.		Iowa.		Kansas.	
	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.
1838	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
1839	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
1840	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1841	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
1842	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
1843	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	1	1	0	0	0
1844	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
1845	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
1846	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
1847	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
1848	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
1849	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
1850	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
1851	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
1852	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
1853	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
1854	4	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
1855	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
1856	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	1	0	0	0
1857	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	4	3	1	0	1	1
1858	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	1	0	0	0
1859	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	6	3	0	0	1	0
1860	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
1861	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	0	1	0	0	0
1862	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	2	0	1	0
1863	4	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
1864	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	5	2	5	2	0	0
1865	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	6	3	2	1	0	0
1866	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	5	3	4	1	1	0
1867	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	5	2	2	0	0	0
1868	5	3	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	0	0	9	3	7	1	1	0	0	0
1869	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	1	5	0	3	1	1	0	0	0
1870	4	4	0	0	3	2	2	0	2	2	3	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	3	1	2	2
1871	4	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	3	1	4	1	3	1	1	0
1872	3	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	7	1	4	1	2	0	2	1
1873	6	4	0	0	4	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	14	6	6	1	5	2	2	0
1874	8	4	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	9	6	4	1	3	0	0	0

No. 1.—*Table showing States from which were appointed candidates rejected by the Academic Board from* 1838 *to* 1874, *inclusive*—Continued.

Date.	Louisiana.		Maine.		Maryland.		Massachusetts.		Michigan.		Minnesota.		Mississippi.		Missouri.		Montana.		Nebraska.		Nevada.		New Hampshire.		New Jersey.		New Mexico.		New York.		North Carolina.		Oregon.	
	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.
1838	2	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	4	0	0	0
1839	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	12	0	1	0	0	0
1840	1	0	3	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	16	0	7	0	0	0
1841	2	0	3	0	4	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	5	2	0	0
1842	0	0	2	0	4	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	13	1	6	2	0	0
1843	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0
1844	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	4	0	0	0
1845	2	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	12	0	2	0	0	0
1846	4	0	3	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	6	1	0	0
1847	1	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	3	0	0	0
1848	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	9	0	3	0	0	0
1849	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	0
1850	3	0	3	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	9	1	4	0	0	0
1851	2	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	3	0	0	0
1852	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	13	0	3	0	0	0
1853	1	0	2	0	4	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	8	0	3	0	0	0
1854	2	0	3	0	4	0	5	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	10	0	2	0	1	0
1855	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	11	0	3	0	0	0
1856	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	13	2	1	1	1	0
1857	2	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	8	2	3	1	0	0
1858	3	2	2	0	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	6	2	0	0
1859	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	2	2	0	0	0
1860	1	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	2	0	0	0
1861	0	0	3	0	5	2	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	1	1
1862	0	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	13	2	0	0	0	0
1863	3	1	1	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	0	8	0	1	0
1864	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	5	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	12	1	0	0	0	0
1865	0	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	2	....	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	12	2	0	0	0	0
1866	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	1	0	0	0
1867	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	10	1	0	0	1	0
1868	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	13	4	5	1	0	0
1869	4	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	1	4	1	0	0
1870	1	1	4	2	1	0	7	1	1	0	0	0	7	6	7	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	12	7	0	0	0	0
1871	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	13	3	0	0	0	0
1872	0	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	18	5	3	2	0	0
1873	2	2	2	0	5	2	6	3	7	3	2	0	4	1	10	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	16	6	10	5	0	0
1874	5	4	3	2	1	0	6	3	4	2	0	0	2	2	6	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	12	5	4	1	0	0

No. 1.—*Table showing States from which were appointed candidates rejected by the Academic Board from* 1838 *to* 1874, *inclusive*—Continued.

Date.	Pennsylvania.		Rhode Island.		South Carolina.		Tennessee.		Texas.		Utah.		Vermont.		Virginia.		Washington Ter.		West Virginia.		Wisconsin.		Ohio.		Kentucky.		Wyoming.		At large.	
	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.	Reported for examination.	Rejected.
1838	8	0	1	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	6	0	0	0	26	0
1839	7	0	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	13	0
1840	7	0	2	0	5	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	6	1	0	0	6	1
1841	11	0	0	0	4	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	4	0	0	0	17	0
1842	12	1	1	0	7	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	4	0	0	0	18	0
1843	6	1	0	0	4	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
1844	7	0	1	0	4	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	13	0
1845	6	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	6	1	0	0	10	0
1846	10	0	1	0	1	0	6	1	2	0	0	0	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	4	0	0	0	10	0
1847	8	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	3	0	0	0	9	0
1848	8	1	1	0	3	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	0	3	0	0	0	10	0
1849	7	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	10	0
1850	11	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	10	0
1851	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	11	0
1852	5	0	1	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	5	0	0	0	17	1
1853	4	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	4	0	0	0	10	0
1854	10	0	1	0	2	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	10	0
1855	11	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	10	0
1856	9	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	7	3	4	1	0	0	10	0
1857	9	2	1	0	3	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	7	0	0	0	11	1
1858	5	2	0	0	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	2	1	0	0	11	1
1859	10	2	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	1	3	0	0	0	11	1
1860	9	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	2	2	0	0	0	10	0
1861	15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	10	2	2	1	0	0	26	0
1862	8	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	7	0	0	0	13	0
1863	6	1	0	0	5	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	3	1	0	0	12	2
1864	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	5	1	4	2	0	0	10	0
1865	14	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	4	1	8	2	5	1	0	0	11	0
1866	8	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	2	3	0	0	0	11	1
1867	7	2	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	12	2
1868	5	....	1	0	2	1	4	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	2	4	3	0	0	11	1
1869	3	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	4	2	3	1	6	2	0	0	13	3
1870	12	7	0	0	2	1	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	0	2	0	2	0	9	5	8	5	1	0	18	8
1871	11	3	1	1	0	0	4	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	1	0	2	1	9	1	7	3	0	0	11	1
1872	14	5	2	....	3	1	7	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	10	2	1	0	1	0	10	1
1873	15	6	1	1	2	1	12	5	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	12	5	6	4	0	0	13	5
1874	12	6	1	0	5	4	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5	4	4	0	7	3	8	3	1	0	16	6

ADJUTANT'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, *June* 5, 1875.

ROBERT HALL,
Captain Tenth Infantry, Adjutant.

No. 2.—*Statement showing number of candidates for cadetships appointed to the United States Military Academy, number rejected, and number admitted, from* 1838 *to* 1874, *inclusive.*

Year.	Number appointed.	Rejected by Academic Board.	For want of qualification in—							Rejected by medical board.	Appointment canceled.	Declined appointment.	Failed to report.	Admitted.	Of whom there graduated four years thereafter—
			Reading.	Writing.	Orthography.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	History.						
1838..	132	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	16	111	54, or 48.6 per cent.
1839..	91	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	6	6	76	34, or 44.7 per cent.
1840..	106	8	0	1	1	8	0	0	0	2	0	4	8	84	22, or 26.1 per cent.
1841..	131	8	6	4	1	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	114	34, or 29.8 per cent.
1842..	144	17	4	5	6	8	0	0	0	9	0	0	9	109	47, or 43.1 per cent.
1843..	77	6	0	5	5	4	0	0	0	8	0	0	3	60	29, or 48.3 per cent.
1844..	96	14	4	7	1	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	75	34, or 45.3 per cent.
1845..	98	9	3	1	1	7	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	81	40, or 49.3 per cent.
1846..	121	5	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	3	9	103	41, or 39.8 per cent.
1847..	84	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	3	74	35, or 47.2 per cent.
1848..	84	2	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	81	38, or 46.9 per cent.
1849..	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	4	88	42, or 47.7 per cent.
1850..	98	3	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	90	40, or 44.4 per cent.
1851..	81	3	1	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	71	31, or 43.5 per cent.
1852..	102	7	4	5	5	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	90	44, or 48.8 per cent.
1853..	97	6	2	2	2	5	0	0	0	1	2	0	5	83	36, or 39.7 per cent.
1854..	120	4	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	4	0	2	7	47 56 } 103	20, 4 years, or 42.5 per cent. 22, 5 years, or 39.2 per cent.
1855..	99	7	4	6	6	2	0	0	0	7	0	1	4	80	37, 5 years, or 46.2 per cent.
1856..	101	17	2	5	12	6	0	0	0	4	0	2	6	72	44, 5 years, or 61.1 per cent.
1857..	132	26	8	19	18	13	0	0	0	9	0	8	7	82	32, or 39 per cent.
1858..	108	19	6	12	11	13	0	0	0	4	2	1	7	75	24, or 32 per cent.
1859..	91	26	8	24	24	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	60	20, or 33.3 per cent.
1860..	84	12	4	7	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	27, or 37.5 per cent.
1861..	148	13	3	4	4	10	0	0	0	2	3	0	23	107	63, or 58.8 per cent.
1862..	96	11	1	8	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	81	38, or 46.9 per cent.
1863..	126	9	4	6	6	6	0	0	0	3	0	5	10	99	58, or 58.5 per cent.
1864..	101	15	4	11	11	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	73	46, or 63 per cent.
1865..	101	16	8	13	12	12	0	0	0	4	0	2	5	74	36, or 48.6 per cent.
1866..	95	17	7	9	9	13	0	0	0	1	0	5	2	70	45, or 64.2 per cent.
1867..	84	19	2	15	10	8	8	7	9	1	0	2	7	55	33, or 60 per cent.
1868..	127	34	8	12	12	16	25	15	19	3	1	2	11	76	53, or 72.5 per cent.
1869..	112	24	5	13	13	9	17	13	13	7	0	7	4	70	40, or 59.1 per cent.
1870..	163	73	15	30	30	28	54	42	40	4	0	16	5	65	37, or 56.9 per cent.
1871..	131	32	3	10	10	15	24	15	22	11	2	1	9	76	43, or 56.57 per cent.
1872..	165	35	0	19	19	11	17	18	15	20	0	1	14	95	
1873..	230	74	5	28	28	30	50	49	29	13	0	7	18	118	
1874..	175	66	4	25	25	30	46	36	19	4	2	2	12	89	

ROBERT HALL,
Captain Tenth Infantry, Adjutant.

ADJUTANT'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,
June 5, 1875.

FRENCH AND SPANISH.

The board are of the opinion that the professorships of French and Spanish might be united and made a professorship of modern languages, with such instructorships attached to it as may be considered requisite.

APPARATUS.

The most liberal policy is recommended with respect to appropriations for the purchase of scientific instruments and apparatus. The Military Academy should be in advance of all the institutions of the country in its means of research and instruction in physics, chemistry, and the various branches of engineering.

Recent outlays have been made for the purchase of mathematical models and for philosophical apparatus, and the usefulness of these purchases is very obvious.

A liberal appropriation is needed for the departments of civil and military engineering. Without naming any definite sum for such appropriations or attempting to indicate what is most necessary, the board are of the decided opinion that in this national school of science the most improved method of scientific research should be illustrated.

It is recommended that appropriations for the purchase of models and instruments be made *indefinite*, and not limited to the duration of a single fiscal year, as it is difficult to determine in advance their cost and the actual time that will be required to construct them.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HYGIENE.

The attention of the board was called to a schedule of physical and vital records which the surgeon has recently instituted. The value of these records, maintained for a series of years, will be very great, and the surgeon is entitled to commendation for the thoroughness and comprehensiveness of his plans.

It has occurred to some members of the board that a course of lectures on hygiene and sanitary science might be given by the surgeon, with reference to acquainting the cadets with the laws of personal health and with the responsibility which will rest upon them for the care of companies of men in camp, on the march, and in the hospital. It is suggested that during the summer, while the cadets are in camp, such instruction might be given.

DISCIPLINE AND GENERAL POLICE.

The discipline of the cadets is fully maintained at the high standard essential to the institution, and which has been its characteristic feature for many years.

The position of the cadet, as defined in the practice of the academy, rather than by any positive law or regulation, is somewhat anomalous.

For certain purposes he is an "enlisted man," and occasion is thus given to such officers as choose to do it to treat him in all social respects as a common soldier.

This is undoubtedly a narrow and defective view.

The cadet is a prospective officer, and his education is wholly intended to fit him for the duties of an officer, and it is neither just to him nor profitable to the service to limit him during his training to the social position enforced by military etiquette upon the common soldier.

As a future officer, he is entitled to those influences which tend to make him a gentleman, and not least among these is the influence of cultivated and refined society.

The board are of opinion that these influences can be extended to a very considerable degree without any prejudice to the most rigid discipline.

The existing routine offers no premium for general good conduct, and might be so extended as to make the privilege of association with the officers and their families at the post a reward for honorable conduct and an evidence of trustworthiness.

Such privilege would necessarily be conditioned upon good conduct, and its withdrawal should follow upon failure of the cadet to preserve the reputation upon which it is dependent.

The board are informed that such intercourse as is above suggested prevails in one, at least, of the military schools of Europe, and that in a country celebrated for the severity of its discipline, and that the results have been admirable.

It would seem that by such means a closer and more affectionate interest would be developed between instructor and pupil, between the present and future officer, and some portion of the wholesome home influences of which they are necessarily deprived might be supplied by such more intimate intercourse.

POLICE.

The general police of the public buildings and grounds is accurate and admirable.

From the topography of the place, an excellent surface drainage for all the public grounds can be maintained, and the grading has been so far perfected that no accumulation of water can occur.

The internal police of the cadet-barracks and other buildings is neat and precise.

The only defect in practical neatness observed by the board is in the kitchens and scullery of the cadet mess-hall. The space allotted is too small, and the utmost vigilance is needed to prevent the ill odors which necessarily arise from the least neglect of absolute cleanliness; and from the construction of the building these ill odors must penetrate into the mess-hall.

This defect and some others, which will be noted under their proper heads, are the results in great part of neglect and incompetency on the part of the purveyor, who is directly charged with control and supervision of this portion of the public buildings, and are also evidence of the want of a sufficiently thorough inspection in this department.

DIET.

All of the expenses of the mess-hall and of provisions, supplies, and cooking, including salary of purveyor, labors upon the garden, wages of cooks, scullions, attendants, and waiters, are paid by assessments upon the cadets, varying somewhat from month to month, but averaging from nineteen to twenty dollars per month.

All purchases are made by the purveyor, who is a civilian named by the superintendent, and his accounts are examined and audited every two months.

The diet is sufficient in amount and in variety, but the quality of some of the articles purchased is far from satisfactory.

In the judgment of the board a close and rigid system of inspection, by officers of experience, of all purchases and supplies should be enforced.

The meats for the cadets are supplied by contract, made by the purveyor, at the uniform rate of 17 cents per pound for all kinds, and should never be accepted or used for cooking without adequate inspection. All other articles of a perishable nature, and which deteriorate rapidly, should be treated in the same manner.

Articles not perishable should be purchased at first-hand whenever practicable, and of the best quality, which quality should be determined by inspection.

The sum of twenty dollars per month from each cadet should secure an abundance of food of the best quality, and in sufficient variety for all reasonable wants, and also fully cover all expenses of skillful preparation and of service and attendance, provided the duty of the purveyor is conscientiously performed by an active, energetic, and competent man, and checked and verified by thorough and uniform inspection.

This rate is decidedly higher, so far as the board can learn, than at any similar institution in the country; and it is only because of the isolation and exceptional situation of West Point that the board admit so high a charge for this item of expenditure.

Under the present purveyor the board are of opinion that the cadet does not receive what he is entitled to for the amount charged him.

It is a question for consideration by the proper authorities whether the system is not defective, and whether it would not be decidedly better to place the battalion of cadets on a different footing, by assigning to officers detailed from the proper staff-corps of the Army the duty now performed by civilians at the expense of the cadets.

It is admitted that the service and attendance on the cadets' mess-table is insufficient. One waiter to forty-four cadets is a force inadequate to place the food upon the table with sufficient promptness and rapidity to secure that it shall be in a healthful and eatable condition.

Without seeking in any respect to introduce habits approaching luxury in the cadets, the board are of opinion that a sufficient force of waiters should be employed to serve the food from the kitchen to the tables rapidly and without loss of heat, especially in the severe weather of the winter; and that the substitution of a staff-officer for the purveyor would secure the necessary funds for this and other desirable improvements.

SANITARY CONDITION.

The cadet-hospital is in as good order and condition as is practicable in the present building. This edifice is contracted in space, badly constructed, ill-ventilated, and unfortunately situated.

The administration is entirely satisfactory.

The new hospital-building now in construction will be free from all objections, and its rapid completion is urgently demanded, and the board recommend that it be pushed with all possible dispatch.

SEWERAGE.

Until within a few years, no general system of sewerage had been undertaken, and at present it is limited to the buildings on the line of the barracks and south of that line.

The present main sewer discharges into the river by an open conduit running near the line of the road to the ferry-landing. This should be covered and continued below the line of low water in the river at the point of its discharge.

Plans for the extension of the system to include the rest of the buildings and officers' quarters have been prepared, and a partial appropriation made at the last session of Congress. In a matter of such vital importance to the health of the academy, the board recommend that the work be pushed as rapidly as possible, and appropriations made to the full amount that can be wisely used in each year until the whole system shall be complete.

WATER-SUPPLY.

The present supply of water is derived from springs in the hills, collected in reservoirs, and distributed by pipes.

The water being derived from hills of gneiss and granite, is of good quality; but, in the judgment of the board, the quantity is insufficient for all the uses to which it might be applied. The building of one

or more additional reservoirs, the protection of all the reservoirs by sufficient fences against fouling by decaying matter drifted by the wind, and the erection of a filtering-basin appear to the board to be required.

The supply should be sufficient, at all seasons and under all circumstances, for all purposes, including the suppression of fire.

SWIMMING-SCHOOL.

Both in a sanitary point of view and as an essential part of military education, the board recommend the establishment of a swimming-school and the erection of the proper buildings for that purpose.

The Hudson River at West Point is a dangerous stream for beginners, full of eddies and counter-currents, caused by the boldness of its banks and the manner in which the point projects into the stream. The immense travel on its waters renders public bathing in the day-time indecent. There can be no privacy in any of the waters fit for swimming in the vicinity of the academy. Hence instruction and exercise in this necessary art must be within some inclosure.

In closing this part of their report the board desire to call attention to the manner in which the commissary-store has heretofore been conducted.

Until very recently it has been the custom for many years to charge the cadets a profit of 10 per cent. upon the cost of all articles purchased for them and supplied to them from the store. Experience has long since demonstrated that this was far too high a percentage.

The charge was originally intended to cover the cost of superintending and clerk hire, and the expenses of administration of the store; but the accumulated fund has become large enough to pay for the erection of a fire-proof store, at a cost of eighteen thousand ($18,000) dollars; a steam-laundry, and a stock of goods on hand of about fifteen thousand ($15,000) dollars.

The present superintendent has reduced the rate to 4 per cent., which is a much nearer approach to justice.

If the maintenance of this store should properly be charged against the cadets and deducted from their slender pay, its measure should be limited by the lowest possible percentage consistent with economical administration.

The board, however, suggest to the Secretary the propriety of relieving the cadets altogether from these charges, and of assuming them as part of the general administration.

FISCAL AFFAIRS.

A committee of the board, appointed to inquire into the fiscal affairs of the academy, reported that they found the account to be well kept and properly vouched.

MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS.

The committee recommend an addition to the hotel, so as to furnish adequate accommodations for the Board of Visitors, officers of the Army, and the parents of cadets. The lack of suitable rooms for the meetings of the board has hitherto impeded the efficient transaction of business.

The board are of the opinion that a proper school-house should be built and furnished for the instruction of the children of officers employed in the academy.

In the opinion of the board the allowance to the superintendent for contingent expenses is too small, and should be moderately increased.

In conclusion the board make this public recognition of the constant courtesy which was extended to them during the progress of their inquiries.

To the superintendent, the commandant, and other administrative officers, and to the professors and other teachers, their grateful acknowledgments are tendered.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

S. C. ROWAN,
Chairman of Board.

Hon. W. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

General Jacob Ammen, Maryland; General N. B. Baker, Iowa; William Dowd, New York; H. H. Fay, Rhode Island; Professor Daniel C. Gilman, California; Professor J. F. Kellogg, Illinois.

The chairman was authorized by the foregoing members of the board to sign their names to the report; and the following-named Senators and members of the House of Representatives, viz, Hon. W. B. Allison and Hon. M. W. Ransom, United States Senate; Hon. Benjamin F. Butler, Hon. Thomas J. Creamer, and Hon. S. A. Hurlbut, United States House of Representatives, have expressed their concurrence in the views of the board, and have likewise authorized their names to be affixed to the report.

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