

you could not have a closer comparison of two systems of "animism" than that which is found in this ancient inscription and in the account of Chinese sacrifices."

OUR NATION'S PREPARATION FOR EMERGENCIES.

In the July number of the *Journal Military Service Institute* there appeared an article on "Preparations for Defense," written by Lieut. Col. W. A. Glassford, of the Signal Corps at Fort Omaha. It was published also in the July 4th issue of the Omaha *World-Herald* and is one step in the direction of counteracting in the minds of the public that tendency of the peace movement which would discourage further equipment for war. The article was referred to the Washington War Department before publication and so bears the stamp of the highest authority in verification of its statements of fact.

Col. Glassford dwells at some length upon the insufficiency of the force of 100,000 men now available in case of emergencies. He thinks that although originally we had reason to feel secure, because of the time and difficulty required to transport large armies, the same reason for security does not now exist since the facilities have been so wonderfully improved. Although not a pessimist, he calls attention to the fact that whereas former stages in our territorial growth were not of a nature to cause any jealousy among European powers, now "for the first time in the progress of our acquisitions the event connected with the most recent were watched by the governments of Europe with intense interest. . . . Our advent as a colonial power in the East had not yet been fully established when European discontent began to be manifested in an unmistakable manner." Col. Glassford also notes the strategic difficulties of our immense coast line.

Col. Glassford is of the opinion that we need reserves of trained men amounting to several times more than our regular forces, and believes that "much can be accomplished in this direction by a short term of service without re-enlistment and by making the army a school for the training of reserves." Although a soldier's pay sounds small it is no smaller than many civil clerkships if the fact is taken into consideration that all the necessities of life are also included, food, shelter and clothing. Our author thinks it would be perfectly practicable to offer such inducements in the way of educative facilities, that besides military service the young soldier would also gain rather than lose in preparation for civil life. "In the infantry, for instance, men could be instructed in the common school branches; in the artillery, manual training; in the cavalry, horsemanship, equitation and notions of veterinary art. In the corps of engineers, instruction could be given in engineering; in the ordnance department, skill in mechanics can be imparted; in the signal corps, operators and electricians can be made; in the medical department, pharmacy and medicine taught; while in the quartermaster and subsistence departments, clerks and storekeepers can be trained. After a term thus spent in the military service, a young man would commence his career in civil life with acquisitions ranging, according to his aptitude, from those required of a skilled workman to a start in a liberal profession."

Of course in the emergency of war these trained men could only be procured for the army by volunteer service, but the government could well afford to offer them a special bounty as a recognition of their greater value. Moreover public sentiment would naturally point to them as those most suitable

to lead in offering their services for the country's need, and it is most likely that as their number grew they would form into military organizations among themselves. "The government could as well encourage associations of reserves for wars to come as it has of veterans for wars that have been."

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

MODERN LIGHT ON IMMORTALITY. By *Henry Frank*. Boston: Sherman, French & Co., 1909. Pp. 467. Price, \$1.85 net.

In this carefully prepared volume Mr. Frank, Speaker for the Metropolitan Independent Church of New York City, presents a thorough study of the immortality problem which he has finally succeeded in solving to his own satisfaction. Led by the insistence of his congregation not to neglect the subject, but to deal with it as he had with other themes from a scientific and rational point of view, Mr. Frank consented to take them with him along the path of inquiry. This book is a still more detailed exposition along the same lines. Beginning almost with the inauguration of human thought at the dawn of civilization he attempts to set forth the actual state of the human mind with reference to its oft illusive dream. After making a careful study of all the historical arguments in favor of the soul's existence and its future life, the author could see nothing of value in fortifying one's affirmative conception. Indeed the old arguments seemed to him weak and ineffective. So at the end of Part I, "The History and the Problem of the Future Life," the conclusions are altogether negative and destructive. The argument that there must be a future life because the conception of immortality has prevailed in the human mind from the beginning of history, did not appeal to him, and he set about studying by the aid of physical sciences the source of this apparent consciousness of survival after death, keeping close to the well-beaten track of experimental science. Mr. Frank confesses his surprise at the result to which his scientific investigation in Part II led him. He feels that his deductions are strictly logical and grounded in accurate and indisputable scientific data although he expresses himself as "only too well aware that what is known as the authoritative scientific world will in all probability reject the 'fine fabric' of logic which with possibly too much conceit" he may have attempted to weave. The positive conclusions which our author has reached at the end of Part II, are succinctly stated as follows:

"It seems to me that one of two logical conclusions follows as the necessary corollary of the theses thus enumerated; or possibly both are legitimate deductions.

"First: That when mankind shall have discovered the secret laws that appertain to the art of living, to Nature's own marvelous principles of life-sustentation, we shall have overcome the mystery of death and shall continue to live and fructify in the no longer mortal bodies we occupy; or

"Second: That there shall be developed in some organisms such a high degree of self-consciousness that the physical seat, in which this spiritual function resides and operates, shall be so controlled and integrated that it will be endowed with sufficient strength to continue its organic activities after this mortal coil shall have been shuffled off."