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## LITERARY.

### LIFE IN THE U. S. ARMY.

BY AN EX-SOLDIER.

The first sergeant will then issue to you a new set of accoutrements and assign you to a squad which is under charge of a sergeant or lieutenant. According to the rules and regulations you are allowed one month before being put on guard detail.

During this time you will be drilled daily in the manual of arms, bayonet exercises, etc., by the members; when you are proficient enough in those exercises you will be put with the company to drill.

I will say here is where I found a grave mistake, one which ought, in my estimation, to be more closely looked after as it affects the young soldier badly and breeds the first discontent of army life viz: The non-commissioned officer who drills the new soldier, in the above

mentioned squad drills, very often happens to be a German, Dane, or Russian whose knowledge of the English language, so far as explanation goes, is rather limited and the young soldier not understanding his way of explanation in broken English, makes frequent mistakes in drilling. The non-commissioned officer getting tired of explaining so often loses temper and the result is worse still, as the young soldier is not allowed to talk back, he must do as he is told. If he wants to make a complaint he must first get permission to see his company commander from the first sergeant of the company. Discipline is very strict in the U. S. A., and very properly too, on account of having to deal with so many different nationalities, good and bad men; first do as you