

Now, it appears to me, is the time for increasing the amount of the pension, and for making it proportionate to the rank of the officer.

The great war that has maintained the integrity of the nation is over, it is hoped and believed, forever, and, therefore, it is possible to ascertain the amount required to provide properly for the families of those who, in their manly efforts to preserve the government from destruction, lost their own lives, and left their wives and children without any other protector than the republic.

No fear need now be felt that the amount needed will be increased. On the contrary day by day, it will be diminished. There is also a still stronger reason why this should be done at once. At the time of the enactment referred to there existed no pension fund, and the expenditure was a burden on the public treasury. Now, however, it is otherwise. The navy, during the war, won for itself a pension fund of \$11,000,000, the annual interest of which will amount, at the present rates, to \$660,000 in gold. Is it not eminently proper that the wives and offspring of the bold men, whose prowess accumulated this noble fund, should at least enjoy a portion of its profits?

The whole amount of pensions paid out during the last year did not exceed \$250,000. It is manifest, therefore, that a proper increase in the annual pensions allowed to the families of officers, with due regard to the rank of the deceased, may be made without absorbing the whole of the interest on the present pension fund, and I would, therefore, strongly urge that the subject be presented to the early attention of Congress.

By an act of Congress of July 4, 1864, "it is provided that all persons now entitled to a less pension, who shall have lost both feet in the military service, shall be entitled to a pension of \$20 per month; and those who, under the same conditions, have lost both hands, shall be entitled to \$25 per month."

As this law is construed in accordance with its phraseology, it dooms to painful inequality those persons in the navy who have suffered equal loss, and receive, under the present naval pension bill, but eight or ten dollars per month.

It cannot be supposed that this distinction was intended, and it is presumed that it requires but a notice of the fact to secure for the sailor the same reward as is bestowed on the soldier.

MEDICAL CORPS OF THE NAVY

It would be a source of the deepest gratification to this bureau to know that the medical corps of the navy offers sufficient inducements to attract the best talent to its ranks, and to feel that those ranks would always be filled. I am reluctantly, however, compelled to say that in my judgment there is no vocation above the humblest laborer that does not at the present time offer greater inducements to the youthful aspirant, and moreover to express the earnest conviction that, if Congress does not, by apt legislation, increase the compensation and elevate the position of the medical officer, the corps which has so recently, during the rebellion, rendered such eminently valuable and efficient service, may soon consist, with but few exceptions, of those who are either too old for active service, or too young to be intrusted with important duties.

My able predecessor has demonstrated that in point of position and relative rank there is scarcely a power on the face of the earth in whose navy the medical officer is not treated with more consideration, and whose position and rank are not superior to that held by him in this country. The importance of his duties, the years of anxious study required to make him an honorable member of his profession, his previous education, the clear, intelligent, and prompt judgment that he should possess, have impressed other nations with the necessity of rewarding such talents and acquirements with at least a corresponding position in the service. But this subject has been so fully and ably brought to the consideration of the honorable Secretary of the Navy by my

immediate predecessor, that I deem it unnecessary to do more than refer to his reports of 1863 and 1864 on that branch of the subject. There is, however, another branch demanding the immediate and most earnest attention of Congress.

In the present state of affairs in this country, with the deranged condition of the currency and the enormous prices of food and clothing, the medical officer cannot subsist on the pay now allowed him by law. The consequence is, that the corps is rapidly diminishing in numbers. The price is not sufficient to induce the medical talent of the country to give up the actual or anticipated emoluments of private practice, and undertake the perilous duties of a naval medical officer, with but little position and less pay, and at the same time subject himself to the dangers of the sea and to the hazards of noxious climates. The mechanic is better paid, and a clerk of skill and reputation can earn double the amount of an assistant surgeon's salary.

What is there, then, to prevent the corps from gradually dwindling into such small proportions that we shall be compelled to take into the service any who may apply, without requiring of them any previous examination, or expecting in them any but the most ordinary qualifications? The consequences will be felt in the future condition of the corps itself, in the increased mortality on ship-board, and at naval hospitals, and, in the event of a war, in the want of the most efficient elements of that "problem of sanitary science." Then, it is true, promotion and pay will be freely offered, but it will be impossible at once to build up a medical corps, and all the experience and advantage that we might have gained will be lost to us.

I beg, therefore, most earnestly to bring to your notice the absolute necessity for prompt action on the part of Congress, to save the medical corps of the navy from apparent disintegration. Immediate and efficient legislation can alone do justice to the services and ability of the present members of this valuable corps, and guarantee its future efficiency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. J. HORWITZ, *Chief of Bureau.*

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

List of eleven iron-clads and twelve wooden vessels of 1863; showing average complement, number of days in commission, number of sick admitted, number of sick admitted, sent to hospital, &c.

Names of iron-clads, (11.)	IRON-CLADS						Names of wooden vessels, (12.)	WOODEN VESSELS						
	Average complement.	Days in commission.	Number of sick admitted.	Sent to hospital.	Died.	Remaining end of 1863.		Daily average sick.	Average complement.	Days in commission.	Number of sick admitted.	Sent to hospital.	Died.	Remaining end of 1863.	Daily average sick.
Catskill.....	81	311	161	21	b 2	1	241	84	210	44	.....	g 1	.....	1176
Lehigh.....	89	280	115	20	.....	4	144	100	365	103	.....	.....	.....	2141
Montauk.....	86	365	120	44	.....	1	247	95	365	187	9	.....	1	2141
Nahant.....	80	365	224	58	c 1	.....	248	57	273	37	6	.....	.....	1740
Nantucket.....	83	308	141	40	.....	3	245	96	365	66	4	h 3	1	3144
New Ironsides.....	443	365	774	50	d 2	7	174	100	365	147	4	.....	.....	3144
Passaic.....	85	346	127	17	.....	.....	174	87	365	69	.....	.....	.....	1344
Patapsco.....	82	364	75	33	e 3	.....	144	86	365	103	10	.....	3	2378
Roonoke.....	316	184	174	51	.....	8	144	50	365	66	30	.....	.....	3377
Saugamon.....	78	322	77	34	f 1	.....	144	569	365	1,049	95	i 8	15	2644
a Weehawken.....	77	259	77	10	.....	1	248	88	365	170	1	j 1	4	4888
Total.....	1,500	3,469	2,065	378	9	25	4,041	1,539	4,133	2,124	198	13	25	43,837 (4.9)

a Foundered, at anchor, Charleston Roads, S. C., December 6, 1863; thirty drowned. b Both killed in battle. c Killed in battle. d One death from colic and exhaustion; one shot by rebel enemy. e Two killed, by premature explosion, in battle; one died of heart disease. f Killed in battle. g From acute dysentery. h Killed in battle. i Three from disease; five from gunshot wounds. j From epilepsy.

List of eighteen iron-clads and eighteen wooden vessels of 1864; showing average complement, number of days in commission, number of sick admitted, &c.

Names of iron-clads, (18.)	IRON-CLADS						Names of wooden vessels, (18.)	WOODEN VESSELS						
	Average complement.	Days in commission.	Number of sick admitted.	Sent to hospital.	Died.	Remaining end of 1864.		Daily average sick.	Average complement.	Days in commission.	Number of sick admitted.	Sent to hospital.	Died.	Remaining end of 1864.	Daily average sick.
Canonius.....	107	260	145	26	.....	4	4188	200	366	241	16	g 1	6	7,266
Catskill.....	81	366	102	12	.....	.....	1448	85	157	25	2	.....	1	1,144
Dictator.....	174	50	14	4	.....	2	2,108	145	366	153	11	h 2	3	5,922
Lehigh.....	89	366	94	12	.....	.....	1,808	90	366	86	6	.....	2	2,366
Mahopac.....	92	92	44	4	.....	3	334	97	366	160	8	i 1	6	3,178
Manhattan.....	96	209	146	8	b 1	2	6,149	109	213	101	2	.....	6	3,178
Monadnock.....	170	92	56	10	.....	6	4,000	80	366	84	13	.....	2	6,149
Montauk.....	81	366	123	18	c 1	.....	2,266	98	366	211	18	j 2	12	6,149
Nahant.....	82	366	93	25	.....	2	1,444	96	366	58	7	.....	1	2,144
Nantucket.....	88	366	118	16	d 1	1	1,808	96	366	94	2	.....	.....	2,144
New Ironsides.....	483	314	536	32	e 4	16	15,111	232	366	179	6	k 1	3	4,188
Onondaga.....	150	283	206	24	.....	3	4,444	80	233	60	2	.....	1	2,366
Passaic.....	83	366	108	8	.....	5	3,366	117	366	172	7	l 2	9	3,366
Patapsco.....	91	366	154	13	.....	3	3,366	82	294	102	8	.....	2	3,366
Roonoke.....	309	366	283	24	.....	6	6,149	485	366	736	52	m 13	16	21,144
Saugamon.....	80	366	90	8	.....	.....	1,444	88	275	31	6	n 1	5	3,366
Saugus.....	102	275	53	16	f 2	1	1,444	96	338	139	7	.....	1	3,366
a Tecumseh.....	100	72	20	8	.....	.....	66	195	366	128	6	o 1	.....	2,144
Total.....	2,458	4,941	1,779	268	9	54	31,447 (3.4)	2,471	5,902	2,700	179	24	76	43,837 (4.6)

a Destroyed by rebel torpedo in action of Mobile bay, Alabama, August 5, 1864. b Drowned. c From typhoid fever. d Drowned. e One of typhoid fever; one of heart disease; one of chronic diarrhoea, and one of concussion of brain. f One drowned by accident, and one drowned by suicide. g From disease. h Drowned. i Drowned. j One from disease; one from drowning. k From disease. l From disease. m Ten from disease; three from injuries. n Accidentally shot. o From disease.

THE MARINE CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,

Washington, October 20, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to report that during my recent absence upon duty I visited the marine posts at Portsmouth, Charlestown, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and Norfolk, Virginia, and from personal inspection of the several commands take pleasure in saying that the order and discipline observed at each was alike creditable to officers and men; and though it has been my unpleasant duty several times during the past year to bring to the notice of the department the escape of prisoners under sentence of court-martial, I desire now to express the opinion that the escapes referred to were not in consequence of inattention to duty, but more from a want of appreciation of the ingenuity sometimes shown by prisoners in releasing themselves from confinement. I trust, however, the experience thus gained will enable us to guard against similar escapes in the future.

The barracks at Portsmouth in process of re-construction at the period of my last report have since been completed, and now offer very comfortable quarters for officers and men. The out-buildings to which I then referred as being old and of wood, unsafe and unsuitable, were soon after torn down by authority of the department, and though much inconvenienced in consequence, I have not yet thought it advisable to direct special estimates to be submitted, with a view to replacing them, but have improved the premises as much as possible out of the annual appropriation for repairs of barracks. At some future time the subject of the construction of proper out-buildings will be brought to your notice.

At Boston the quarters for officers and men are in good condition, but will require considerable painting to keep them in a proper state of preservation.

At Brooklyn the barracks will require only the usual attention to repairs, to keep them in good order. The barrack-grounds have been much improved during the year, and though much is still to be done to make them conform to the present plan of improvement, their present condition and appearance reflects much credit upon the continued efforts of the commanding officer, to make them all that is desirable.

The barracks at Philadelphia are too contracted to afford comfortable accommodation for the usual strength of that post, but until the question of a change of location of the yard is definitely settled, I do not deem it advisable to recommend any addition to, or enlargement of the building, but will endeavor to make such disposition of the forces ashore as will prevent too much crowding of the men. The building can be kept in its present condition without any reference to special appropriation.

At Norfolk the quarters occupied by the troops, though of a temporary character, can be kept comparatively comfortable with the means at our disposal. If, however, it should be in contemplation soon to deprive us of these quarters, or if it has been fully determined by the department to re-establish the yard upon its former basis, it would then be desirable to submit to the department for consideration a plan for the construction of proper barracks, with a view to asking for such an appropriation as would be necessary for that purpose.

In my last annual report, the fact of Congress not having passed the appropriation for constructing officers' quarters, guard-house, &c., at Mare island, California, was mentioned, and the hope expressed that the subject might again be brought to the notice of that body. The objection then presented to quartering officers and men in the same building is still entertained, and in view alone of the pernicious effects thus likely to be produced upon discipline, the department is asked to favor the legislation necessary to correct that evil, and

at the same time give more comfortable homes to officers having to serve at such isolated points.

During the past year the strength of the corps has not changed materially, the ordinary means of recruiting having been sufficient to replace the loss occasioned by special discharges and by expiration of service; and though the number of men on shore at present is somewhat greater than is usual, owing to the many vessels having guards aboard that have recently gone out of commission, this temporary accession to the shore force is well employed in being constantly instructed in the duties of soldiers, and in giving additional security to the vast amount of government property at the several navy yards. Most of the year, however, the greater part of the corps have been actively employed in the operations of the several squadrons, and have thus borne an humble part in the gallant deeds of the navy.

In closing this brief report I desire to allude for a moment to the great struggle for the Union through which we have just passed, and in behalf of my corps tender my congratulations that during that struggle, and in the final triumph of the government over all its enemies, the navy has borne so honorable a part as to give it new claims to the confidence and support of a great and free people.

Respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

J. ZEILIN,

Colonel Commandant.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,

Paymaster's Office, September 30, 1865.

SIR: I enclose herewith estimates, in triplicate, for pay and subsistence of officers, and pay of non-commissioned officers, musicians, privates, &c., of the United States marine corps, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867.

These estimates exhibit an increase of \$66,201 50 over the sum appropriated for the present fiscal year; of which amount \$51,201 50 will be required for payment of the increase in commutation for officers' rations and servant allowance, authorized by an act approved March 3, 1865, and \$15,000 for undrawn clothing, rendered necessary by the advance in the price of clothing.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. CASH,

Paymaster Marine Corps.

Colonel JACOB ZEILIN,

Commandant U. S. Marine Corps, Headquarters.

Detail estimate of pay and subsistence of officers and pay of non-commissioned officers, musicians, privates, &c., of the United States marine corps, from July 1, 1866, to June 30, 1867.

	Number.	Pay per month.	PAY.		SUBSISTENCE.		Aggregate.	
			Number of servants at \$37.50 per month.	Number of servants at \$31.50 per month.	Total.	Number of rations at 50 cents per ration.		Number of rations at 30 cents per ration.	Total.
Colonel commandant	1	\$95	2		\$2,040 00	12	\$2,190 00	\$4,230 00
Colonels, one retired but retained on duty	2	95	2		4,080 00	6	2,190 00	6,270 00
Lieutenant colonels, one retired but retained on duty	3	80	2		5,580 00	5	2,737 50	8,317 50
Lieutenant colonels retired	2	80			1,920 00	4	1,460 00	3,380 00
Majors	4	70	2		6,960 00	4	2,920 00	9,880 00
Majors retired	2	70			1,680 00	4	1,460 00	3,140 00
Adjutant and inspector, paymaster and quartermaster	3	80	2		5,148 00	4	1,314 00	6,462 00
Assistant quartermasters	2	70	1		2,436 00	4	876 00	3,312 00
Captains, one retired but retained on duty	16	70	1		20,640 00	4	11,680 00	32,320 00
Captains	5	70	1		6,090 00	4	2,190 00	8,280 00
Captains retired	1	60			720 00		720 00	1,440 00
First lieutenants	23	50	1		24,150 00	4	16,720 00	40,870 00
First lieutenants retired	7	50	1		6,846 00	4	3,052 00	9,898 00
Second lieutenants	25	45	1		24,750 00	4	18,250 00	43,000 00
Second lieutenants retired	5	45	1		4,590 00	4	2,180 00	6,770 00
Second lieutenants retired	1	45			540 00	4	730 00	1,270 00
Leader of the band	1	75			900 00			900 00
Sergeant major	1	30			360 00			360 00
Quartermaster sergeant and drum major	2	24			576 00			576 00
Orderly sergeants	70	26			21,840 00			21,840 00
Sergeants	90	20			21,600 00			21,600 00
Sergeants	80	22			21,120 00			21,120 00
Corporals	140	18			30,240 00			30,240 00
Corporals	120	20			28,800 00			28,800 00
Musicians of the band	30				9,492 00			9,492 00
Drummers and fifers	64	16			12,288 00			12,288 00
Drummers and fifers	56	18			12,096 00			12,096 00
Privates	2,300	16			441,600 00			441,600 00
Privates	700	18			151,200 00			151,200 00
Bounty for enlistment, (second instalment)	1,000				100,000 00			100,000 00
Clerks and messengers to colonel commandant and staff	13				12,440 45			12,440 45
Steward and nurse in hospital at headquarters	2				1,095 00			1,095 00
Additional rations to officers for five years' service						120	21,900 00	21,900 00
Undrawn clothing							30,000 00	30,000 00
Total					984,417 45		122,649 50	1,107,066 95

Respectfully submitted.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,
Paymaster's Office, September 30, 1865.

J. C. CASH, Paymaster Marine Corps.

No. 29.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,
Quartermaster's Office, Washington, October 3, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit triplicate estimates for the support of the quartermaster's department, marine corps, from July 1, 1866, to June 30, 1867.

These estimates vary from the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866, as follows:

Contingencies has been increased	\$20,000 00
Clothing has been reduced	13,848 95
And fuel has been reduced	2,509 75

The increase in contingencies is made necessary by the high prices of everything chargeable to that appropriation, and the heavy expenditures under that head during the present and past fiscal years. The reduction in clothing is believed to be justified by a decrease in the cost of material, and on fuel by the present condition of that appropriation.

The aggregate amount asked for exceeds the appropriation of last year \$3,578 30.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. SLACK,
Quartermaster Marine Corps.

Colonel JACOB ZEILIN,
Commandant Marine Corps, Headquarters.

Estimate of the expenses of the quartermaster's department of the marine corps for one year, from July 1, 1866, to June 30, 1867.

There will be required for the support of the quartermaster's department of the marine corps for one year, commencing on the 1st of July, 1866, in addition to the balances then remaining on hand, the sum of six hundred and fifty thousand six hundred and eighty-seven dollars and fifty-five cents.

For provisions	\$169,907 50
For clothing	314,663 05
For fuel	30,117 00
For military stores, viz: Pay of mechanics, repair of arms, purchase of accoutrements, ordnance stores, flags, drums, fifes, and other instruments	16,000 00
For transportation of officers, their servants, troops, and for expense of recruiting	25,000 00
For repair of barracks and rent of offices where there are no public buildings	15,000 00
For contingencies, viz: Freight, ferrriage, toll, cartage, wharfage, purchase and repair of coats, compensation to judge advocates, per diem for attending courts-martial, courts of inquiry, and for constant labor, house rent in lieu of quarters, burial of deceased marines, printing, stationery, postage, telegraphing, apprehension of deserters, oil, candles, gas, repair of gas and water fixtures, water rent, forage, straw, barrack furniture, furniture for officers' quarters, bed-sacks, wrapping-paper, oil-cloth, crash, rope, twine, spades, shovels, axes, picks, carpenters' tools, keep of a horse for messenger, pay of matron, washerwomen and porter at hospital headquarters, repairs to fire-engine, purchase and repair of engine-hose, purchase of lumber for benches, mess tables, bunks, &c., repairs to public carryall, purchase and repair of harness, purchase and repair of hand-carts and wheel-barrows, scavenging, purchase and repair of galleys, cooking stoves, ranges, &c., stoves where there are no grates, gravel, &c., for parade grounds, repair of pumps, furniture for staff and commanding officers' offices, brushes, brooms, buckets, paving, and for other purposes	80,000 00

Amount required 650,687 55

Respectfully submitted:

W. B. SLACK,
Quartermaster Marine Corps.

Summary statement of appropriations required for the navy and marine corps for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867.

Objects.	Office of the Secretary of the Navy.	Bureau of Yards and Docks.	Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting.	Bureau of Navigation.	Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.	Marine corps.	Aggregates.
Pay of the navy.....		\$217,166	\$4,500,000	\$4,517,262	\$102,210		\$9,336,638 00
Bounties to discharged seamen.....			800,000				800,000 00
Equipment of vessels.....			1,000,000				1,000,000 00
Surgeons' necessaries.....				192,500	168,750		168,750 00
Navigation and navigation supplies.....				5,000			192,500 00
Contingent.....	\$250,000	2,070,000	800,000		75,000		3,200,000 00
Naval Academy.....				198,429			198,429 00
Naval Observatory.....				20,000			20,000 00
Nautical Almanac.....				25,850			25,850 00
Navy yards, &c.....		7,039,306					7,039,306 00
Pay of superintendents.....		146,230			97,000		146,230 00
Hospitals.....							97,000 00
Marine corps—							
Pay.....						\$1,107,066 95	
Provisions.....						169,907 50	
Clothing.....						314,663 05	
Fuel.....						30,117 00	
Military stores.....						16,000 00	
Transportation.....						25,000 00	
Repairs of barracks.....						15,000 00	
Contingent.....						80,000 00	
	250,000	9,472,702	7,100,000	4,959,041	442,960	1,757,754 50	23,982,457 50

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.

SIR: The visitors appointed for 1865 to attend the examinations at the Naval Academy at Newport, and to inspect the discipline and general management of the institution, having attended to the prescribed duties, have the honor to submit the following report:

Although all the members of the board were not present at the time designated in your letters of appointment, the organization was effected on that day, (May 20,) and under the direction of the president, Vice-Admiral D. G. Farragut, the work was begun.

The board was divided into committees, each of which took in charge some special subject for investigation, while each member was also expected to make such general examinations into any department as time and opportunity might permit. Upon the reports of these committees the opinions of the whole board were expressed, and in this manner the material was provided from which a final report could be drawn, that would express without danger of material error the general sentiment of the visitors.

In the natural order of investigation, the condition of the buildings and ships, and in general the whole material equipment of the academy, presented itself as the first subject to be considered. Although this was assigned to the naval officers who were members of the board, the importance of this branch of the examination was such that the committee was often joined in its inspections by all the other visitors, so that a full and free interchange of sentiments was had from the first in regard to every important feature of this branch of our work. Inasmuch as the academy is soon to be removed to Annapolis, any statement of the unfitness of the buildings at Newport for a national naval school would be entirely out of place, were it not that it may be made the occasion of expressing the opinions of the board in regard to the great importance of the academy, and the necessity of providing for it such edifices, and in general such a material equipment, as will be suitable for a truly national institution, one befitting a naval power of the first rank, and which will suitably represent to other nations our resources and our power.

The condition of the buildings now used for the academy is, upon the whole, creditable to those who have them in charge. Erected as they were for an entirely different purpose, they are wholly unsuitable for an educational institution of any kind, and only some such emergency as that which caused them to be occupied could justify even their temporary use. So inadequate are the accommodations even in regard to room, that about one-half of the midshipmen are necessarily quartered on board the frigates Santee and Constitution, and this separation of the school not only causes serious inconvenience in its management, but tends to arrange the pupils into two bodies, divided in interests and feeling, as well as by position.

The *esprit du corps* so necessary to the highest condition of such an institution cannot thus be maintained, and some of the noblest influences which are ever brought to bear upon young minds are in a great measure lost. The board is unable to perceive any advantages from this location on the ships which compensate for the evils, as even in the matter of health, though the cases of sickness are less in number than on shore, those which do occur are more severe.

The quarters of the midshipmen on shore, the recitation rooms, the dining hall, and the various other apartments of the buildings were cleanly, though something of the usual lack of order at the close of a term was here and there visible, and the walls from the somewhat ancient date of the paint and paper had a dingy and faded aspect that was far from agreeable, and this, with the

ordinary character of the furniture of the recitation rooms, would give a stranger an unfavorable impression of the estimation in which the government holds the academy.

In regard to the character of the buildings which will be needed hereafter, the board offers some suggestions more willingly because of the abundant evidence that has been given by the Navy Department of its settled purpose to create a truly American navy, and make it worthy of the nation which it represents and defends, and because of the readiness which it has shown to meet with new methods and instruments, the demands of a war in whose progress the whole art of naval attack and defence was so suddenly and completely changed.

The visitors do not doubt, therefore, that the same wise foresight, the promptitude and liberality of action will be used to the extent of the power of the department to adapt this national nursery of our naval officers to the altered condition of the nation and of the science of war.

In forming an opinion of what our Naval Academy should be hereafter, it is wise to consider the new relations into which the war has brought us with foreign powers, and to study our probable future. We have been enabled, by the help of God, to subdue completely a rebellion more formidable than was ever put down by any government before, and restore the supremacy of the nation over every foot of our territory.

Not by our own choice, but by a necessity which foreign powers have imposed upon us, by aiding the rebellion, we have become a great military power, and the attitude of western Europe will compel us to remain so, if we would maintain our national rights and honor, and these must be intrusted hereafter in a great degree to the navy.

Hence the importance of a naval school on a scale commensurate with the rank and power of the country, and adequate to meet not only the present, but prospective wants of the nation.

The visitors see no reason to suppose that the number of midshipmen will be less hereafter in proportion to population than it now is; and the buildings to be erected should, therefore, be of sufficient extent to meet the natural increase of the school for some years to come, or at least the plan should be such that additions can be made without breaking the harmony of the design.

The plan of the structures and the architecture should combine whatever is most excellent in the educational establishments both of our own country and of Europe, not from any spirit of idle display, or for the gratification of national pride, but because such an establishment will be one important representative to other nations of the character of American institutions, and because young men catch the tone and spirit of their surroundings, and would go forth from a noble academy with a character elevated to the rank of the institution itself.

Without proposing to assume the office of the architect, it seems to be within the proper province of the visitors to present some general views in regard to the arrangement of the rooms. The rooms of the cadets should be large enough to give ample accommodations to three individuals, so that beds and furniture should not be too closely packed and without regard to order. Habits almost necessarily formed in small, inconvenient rooms often affect the character for life. The latest improvements which science has devised should be used to secure the best possible ventilation. Very few of all the public buildings of our country are so supplied with pure air as not to be injurious to health, and the utmost possible care should be taken in regard to apartments where so many hours of every day are spent, either in sleeping or in severe mental labor. For this reason, among others, the board would suggest the propriety of large and well-furnished halls for study, instead of using for this purpose the private sleeping apartments of the scholars. It is thought that much more would be accomplished in a given time if the cadets, while engaged in study, were under the

eyes of the proper teachers, and that the hours of daily study might thus be somewhat shortened, and an opportunity be given for outdoor recreation, or some form of gymnastic exercises.

For this latter purpose a gymnasium of the very best description, and other means of athletic sports, should form an important department of the institution, because the object is not merely to produce scholars, but educated *men*, whose physical education should be as complete as their mental training.

The condition of the library and philosophical apparatus at Newport shows the necessity of providing, in any buildings to be erected hereafter, a library and lecture room adjacent to each other, supplied with all the apparatus needed to illustrate the lectures upon natural science, and a small observatory, with the suitable instruments, such as several of our colleges have, would be a very valuable addition to the academy. Some certain provision should be made for the regular increase of the library, so that the cadets should have access not only to such works as are directly connected with their several studies, but also to the best of the current literature of the day, especially that of our own language. It is scarcely necessary, perhaps, to add that in what may be called the domestic and household arrangements of the academy, upon which the health and comfort of the scholars largely depend, special attention should be given to the many important improvements which science and art have introduced, the use of which is recommended both by a true economy and a due regard for the physical and moral welfare of the cadets. In short, the board is unanimous in the opinion that the United States should have a national naval school superior to any in existence now, and which shall rank with the first educational institutions of the world; one in which our officers should not only be made thorough seamen, but American gentlemen, the breadth and finish of whose education should fit them to move with credit in the most polished society of the world.

THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SCHOOL.

Upon this point the opinion of the board is expressed by the following extract from the report of Vice-Admiral Farragut, to whom this subject was specially committed:

"With respect to the discipline of the school I will state that, so far as I can ascertain, it appears to be good. The young gentlemen are orderly and obedient, and I hear no complaints from any quarter, of irregularities or a want of proper observance of decorum on their part, or of necessary precaution and regulations to keep them in a proper state of subordination."

The board would only add to this testimony the gratifying fact that the institution seemed to be pervaded by a moral influence, and under whatever circumstances the cadets were seen, there was clear evidence that the external propriety of conduct sprung from self-respect, a due regard for what is right, and from true manliness, rather than the mere force of authority; and the officers of the academy deserve great credit for the successful exercise of this highest form of government. In this connexion the visitors desire to bear their decided testimony to the faithfulness, efficiency, and success with which the superintendent has administered the affairs of the academy for so many years. Feeling that in an important sense the presiding officer of such an institution stands in the place of a parent to each cadet, he has not been satisfied with maintaining purely official relations with those under his charge, but has also held with them that familiar private intercourse by which an influence almost paternal could be exerted over each individual, by the kindly use of unofficial reproof or encouragement; and it cannot be doubted that much of what is admirable in the deportment of the cadets is due to the unseen power, which thus quietly moulded them more by the gentleness of love than the sternness of authority.

The fact that this officer has written with his own hand more than one thousand letters a year to the parents of these young men, shows that he has spared no pains in the performance of the duties of his office, and probably much of his success may be due to the use he has thus made of the sweet, strong influences of home. It was apparently owing to such causes that the cadets seemed to be guided more by an inner sense of propriety than by the external restraints of law. Such an office has doubtless less attractions for most naval officers than active service, and brings as its reward far less of popular applause, but he who yearly aids in training those who are to command our ships and fight our battles may justly feel that he has a right to share in the victory and the honor. Nor could the board do justice in this case without expressing a cordial approval of the manner in which the commandant of midshipmen performs his duties, mingling kindness with firmness with a judgment so accurate that it is seldom at fault, and causing the whole machinery of discipline to move with exactness and regularity.

The work of the subordinate officers and teachers is less open to observation, but so far as results can furnish a guide to opinion, the various performances of the cadets induced the belief that those officers and teachers are worthy of the confidence reposed in them by the government.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Application was made through a committee of the board to the chaplain of the academy for such a statement of facts as would enable the visitors to judge of the religious condition of the school, and the means used for the instruction of the midshipmen in this branch of their education; but no reply having been received, the board is able to communicate only such facts as are known to all.

A short service for reading the Scriptures and for prayer is held each morning in the hall on shore, and also on board the school-ships, and the cadets and officers meet also for divine service every Sabbath morning at eleven o'clock. Attendance upon these services is obligatory, except in cases where a reasonable excuse is rendered in writing. These daily Sabbath services are conducted by the regular chaplain of the academy, assisted from time to time by other chaplains, who are attached to the school as assistant professors. It would be interesting to know what influence the course of education appears to exert upon the religious life of those who profess to be Christians. It is certainly a matter of the highest moment to inquire whether the religious element is neglected, or bears its due proportion in the education of our young officers, and nothing would so increase the interest and confidence of millions in the academy, or endear it so much to their hearts, as to know that those who are to be the future guardians of our country, and interests, and honor, are being duly instructed in the principles of the gospel, and that in any contest hereafter they will appeal not alone to arms, but also to the God of battles.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATIONS.

In reporting upon this department, it is but justice to the surgeon in charge to state that no hospital accommodations have been provided for his use except a suit of rooms intended for quite another purpose, and that these, by care and due attention to cleanliness, have been made as comfortable as could be expected. Everything considered, the appearance of the apartments was highly satisfactory. It was also very gratifying to the board to learn from the hospital reports that none of the diseases mentioned are of a character which would indicate any vicious habits or moral obliquities on the part of the midshipmen, and that the report of the surgeon in charge, like all the reports from the different officers of the academy, speaks well for the purity and morality of the young gentlemen connected with the school.

The number of midshipmen connected with the academy from 1857 to 1864, inclusive, is as follows:

Academic year ending June, 1857.....	177
Do.....do.....1858.....	193
Do.....do.....1859.....	174
Do.....do.....1860.....	288
Do.....do.....1861.....	267
Do.....do.....1862.....	456
Do.....do.....1863.....	471
Do.....do.....1864.....	514

The number of deaths and sickness among these from 1858 to 1864, inclusive, is as follows:

Deaths in the academy from June, 1858, to June, 1861.....	1
Deaths in the academy from June, 1861, to June, 1865.....	10
Sick-leaves from academy from June, 1858, to June, 1861.....	5
Sick-leaves from academy from June, 1861, to June, 1865.....	40

The increase in the number of sick-leaves is attributed by the surgeon to the want of suitable hospital accommodations, in consequence of which the invalids have been sent home. The increase in the number of deaths during the last period named above is due to an epidemic fever in 1863. The percentage of sickness in the year last past was but 12, of which the greater portion occurred in the earlier months of the year. The first quarter of each year shows a report of sickness, which, compared with other quarters, is notably large, and it is found that each first quarter records the same disorders, and shows a percentage of sickness which almost exactly corresponds with the same quarter of other years. For example, the average of patients during the first quarter of 1864 was $29\frac{3}{10}$, and for the first quarter of the current year, $28\frac{2}{10}$. The leading disorders in each case were catarrh, headache, tonsillitis, and kindred diseases. The total number of sick-days during the first quarter of 1864 was 2,678, that for the first quarter of the current year was 2,588, the number of scholars in each case being nearly the same, while the total of sick-days for the last three months of 1864, with about the same average attendance, was only 984. These facts are of course due chiefly to climatic influences which prevail with slight modifications along the whole of the northeastern part of the Atlantic coast.

GENERAL COURSE OF STUDY.

That portion of this subject which refers to the proper qualifications for admission to the academy will be considered under another head of the report. The visitors found that an impression has been somewhat widely spread abroad that the terms of admission are such as to exclude from the school a large class of boys who are justly entitled to its privileges, and also that the course of study is so severe, and the examinations so rigid, that large numbers fail, who, under a different system, might finish their studies with credit to themselves and profit to the government. Upon investigation the board ascertained the following facts from tables covering twelve years. During this time 1,522 candidates were nominated and conditionally appointed. Of these, 313 were rejected as unqualified. Of the remaining 1,209, who were admitted, 466 failed in the first year's course. Three hundred and thirty-one of those who failed in the first year were turned back for a second trial, and of these but few succeeded in graduating. Of the whole number admitted, (1,209,) only 269 graduated, including 93 who were received into the service from 1861 to 1864, before completing their studies. Judging from these facts alone, the inference would be a very natural one that the standard of admission is too high, the studies in the course too severe, and the examinations too rigid. But the other facts in the case show conclusively that such an