

64. *Exercise.*—The importance of providing Boys with ample facilities for exercise and outdoor recreation is generally recognised, and it must be admitted that a Shore Establishment offers many more opportunities for exercise than a ship. The large covered spaces in Barracks, *e.g.*, the gymnasium, drill sheds, &c., can be freely used in inclement weather, which in a Ship might necessitate the confinement of the Boys on board. In Barracks immediate advantage can be taken of brief spells of sunshine in showery weather to exercise the boys in an asphalt or gravel playground or parade, and the prevalence of high winds, which may often prevent communication with the shore in the case of a Ship, does not interfere with the exercises in Barracks. At every break in the hours of instruction, Boys in Barracks can quickly reach the playing fields, while in a Ship the best exercise is obtainable on the upper deck which is often roofed in. During spells of bad weather Boys in a hulk are confined to ship for many days together without the opportunity of outdoor exercise.

The natural evolution of the Fleet has led to a gradual change in the character of the training of Boys required to supply the Seaman Class personnel. In former years the nature of the training of Seaman Class Boys, comprising boat work, sail-drill (general, and by classes), led to a considerable portion of their time being spent under open-air conditions. The gradual extension of purely educational subjects, the elimination of sail-drill, and the reduction of the time devoted to boat work have been followed by an extension of the time spent in class-rooms, and the need for regular outdoor exercise is consequently emphasised.