

Swimming.

263. It being of the greatest importance that Officers and men of the Navy and Marines should be able to swim, the following regulations are to be observed:—

I. *As regards Officers.*

Cadets.

a. Instruction in swimming being given to all Naval Cadets on board the "Britannia," they will not be allowed to pass out until they can swim; a notation as to their ability being made on their passing papers.

Assistant Clerks.

b. Assistant Clerks before being deemed qualified must produce certificates of proficiency in swimming in accordance with Art. 255.

Assistant Engineers.

c. The proficiency in swimming of Assistant Engineers is ensured by the Instructions regulating the entry of Engineer Students.

II. *As regards the Ship's Company.*

Men.

a. As a rule making ability to swim a condition of entry cannot be applied to the Ship's Company generally, every facility is to be given to enable Men to learn swimming.

In home ports.

b. In the case of Men at the home ports and in the Reserves (Artificers, Stokers, &c.) there ought to be no difficulty, as they have ample opportunity for practice.

Boys in Training Ships.

c. Boys in the Training Ships are not to be rated First Class Boys until they can swim, and Boy Writers, Ships' Stewards' Boys and Naval Schoolmasters are not to be allowed to enter the service unless they can swim.

Certificates.

d. A notation as to ability to swim is to be made on the parchment certificates of all Petty Officers, Men, and Boys, and of all Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Marines, and also on all passing certificates for higher ratings.

III. *Inspections.*

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Form S.
No. 426e.

To ensure these Regulations being properly carried out, the Commanders-in-Chief and other Inspecting Officers, at all Inspections of Ships, will make special inquiries as to the number of persons on board (if any) who cannot swim, and report what steps are taken in the matter.