



Photo. WILLIS, Gr. v. m. m.

*Our First Reserve:—COASTGUARDSMEN AT SMALL ARMS DRILL.*

THE upper group comprises the Coastguard Crew with the wagon of the Rocket Life Saving Apparatus stationed at Muchalls, Stonehaven, N.B., which holds the honour of having been officially pronounced by the Inspector-General of the Board of Trade (at whose orders the photograph reproduced was specially taken), the smartest and cleanest turn-out in the United Kingdom. The lower group comprises the Coastguard Crews of the Gravesend and Tilbury Stations, at rifle drill in front of their boat house, under Chief Officer PARKER, shown on the reader's left, wearing the Humane Society's silver medal; (the second silver medal for saving life at sea he has received). The Station Officer at Tilbury (Mr. J. HICKS), is shown on the right wearing the long service and good conduct medal. The Coastguardsmen, who are all bluejackets of considerable service and exceptional character, form our first Naval Reserve. Men of all ratings are to be found among them, and these are distributed to the battleships and cruisers of the First Reserve stationed round the coast at Portland, Hull, Harwich, Holyhead, Queensferry, Kingstown, and elsewhere, which vessels they would at once join on the order to mobilize.