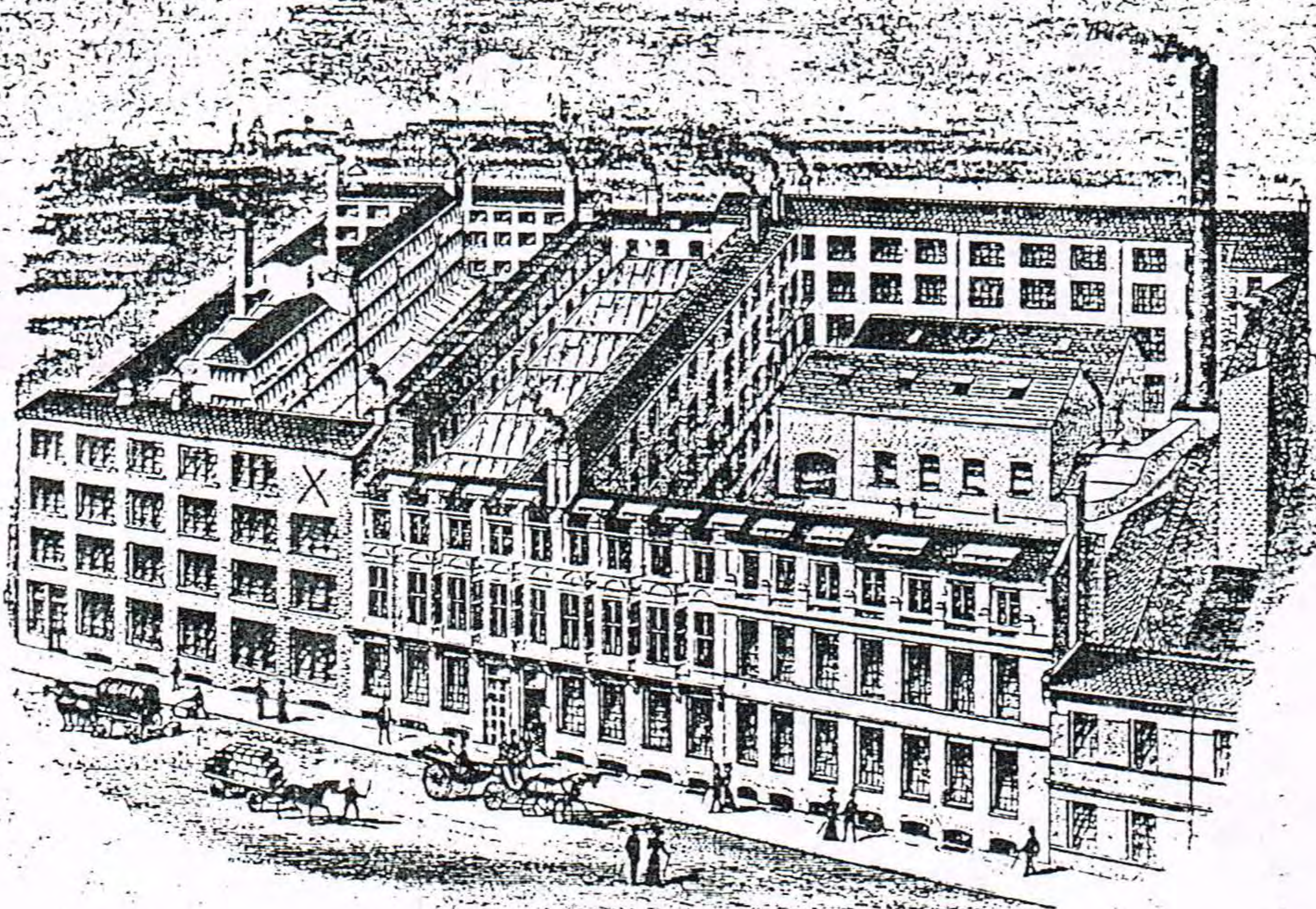




THE WEBLEY-FOSBERY AUTOMATIC REVOLVER.

DESCRIPTION AND INSTRUCTIONS.



CONTRACTORS TO HIS MAJESTY'S WAR DEPARTMENT,
THE ADMIRALTY, INDIA, THE COLONIES,
CHINESE NAVY,
ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY, DUBLIN POLICE, METROPOLITAN POLICE,
CAPE MOUNTED POLICE, LISBON POLICE.

London Depot: 78, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, W.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:

"ARMAMENTS, LONDON."

"WEBLEY, BIRMINGHAM."

TELEPHONE 479, BIRMINGHAM.

TELEPHONE 3087, GERRARD, LONDON.

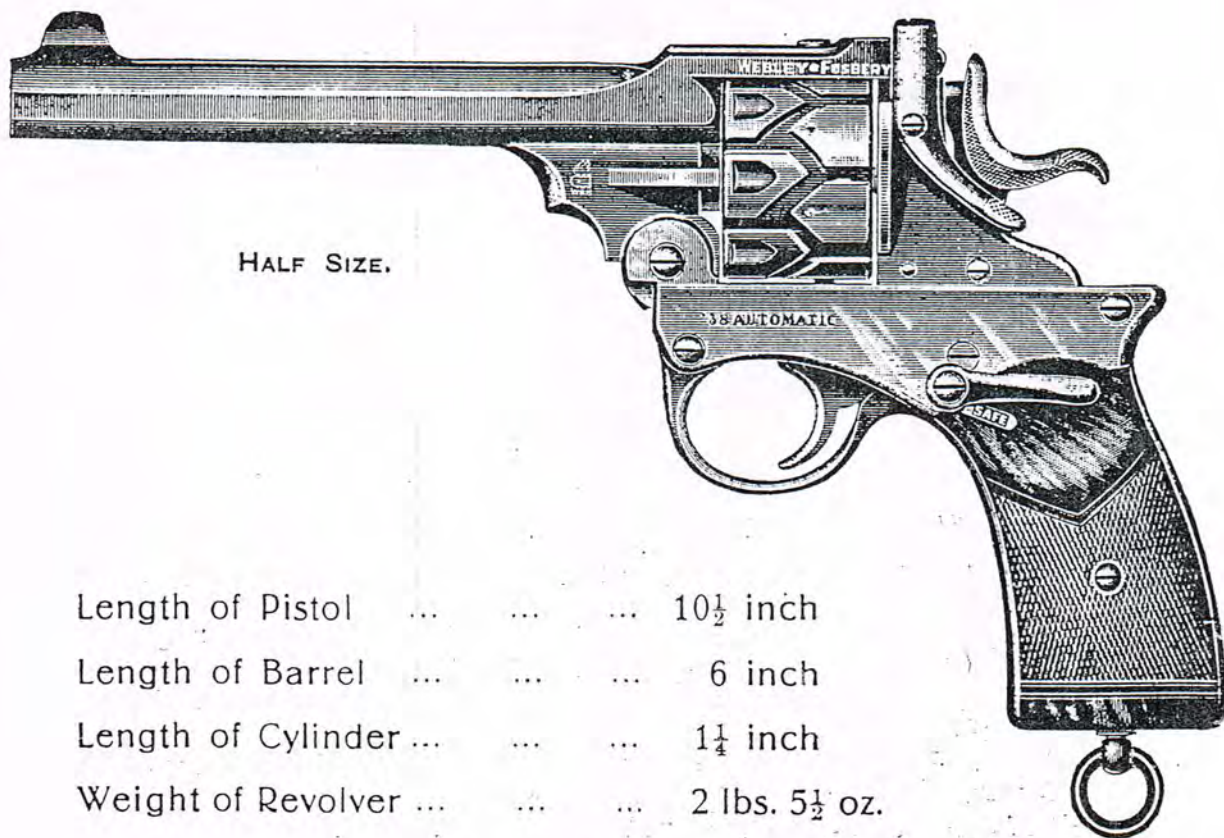
WEBLEY & SCOTT, Limited,
81 TO 91, WEAMAN STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

Avery & Joseph, Printers, Birmingham.

THE WEBLEY-FOSBERY AUTOMATIC REVOLVER.

8 SHOT.

For the .38 Automatic Cartridge.



HALF SIZE.

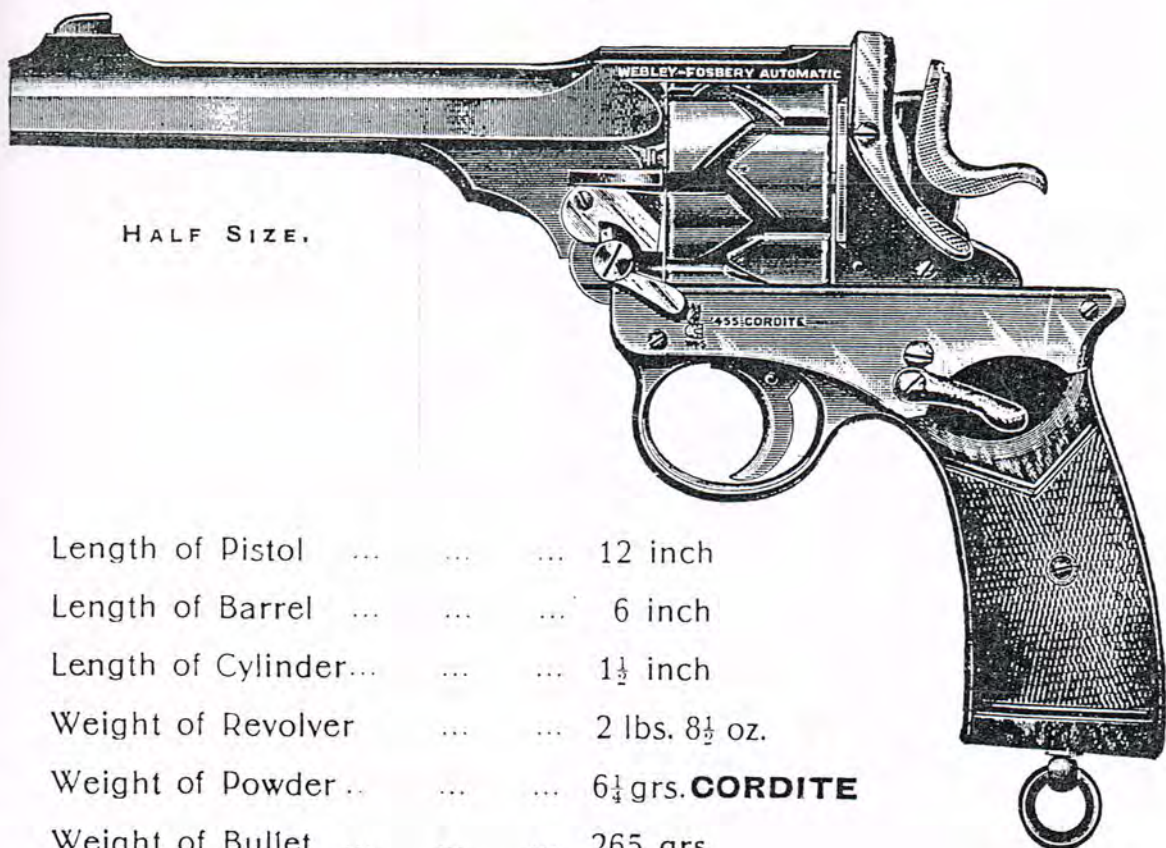
Length of Pistol	...	...	...	10½ inch
Length of Barrel	...	...	...	6 inch
Length of Cylinder	...	...	...	1¼ inch
Weight of Revolver	...	...	...	2 lbs. 5½ oz.

THE

WEBLEY-FOSBERY

AUTOMATIC REVOLVER.

FOR BRITISH GOVERNMENT SERVICE
AMMUNITION.



Length of Pistol	...	...	12 inch
Length of Barrel	...	...	6 inch
Length of Cylinder...	...	...	1½ inch
Weight of Revolver	...	...	2 lbs. 8½ oz.
Weight of Powder	...	...	6¼ grs. CORDITE
Weight of Bullet	...	...	265 grs.
Diameter of Bullet	...	...	·455

The 6-shot Webley-Fosbery Revolver is regulated for the ·455 Service Cordite Cartridge, but on an emergency either of the following Cartridges can be used—

·455, with 18 grs. Black Powder & 265 grs. lead Bullet
·450 " 13 " " " 225 " "

The "Webley-Fosbery" Automatic Revolver.

INTRODUCTION.

HE WEBLEY-FOSBERY is the result of several years' experiments to make an Automatic Revolver that can be fired as rapidly as any of the Automatic Pistols now before the Public.

The mechanism is very strong and simple, and there is no difficulty in loading, as it can be loaded in exactly the same manner as all Webley Self-Extracting Revolvers, or the Patent Clip Loader can be employed, by means of which the weapon can be discharged and re-loaded as rapidly as any of the Automatic Pistols on the market.

It is provided with an efficient safety lever which can be put into operation at either half or full cock, thereby permitting the Revolver to be carried in the holster at full cock, or it can be carried at half cock with or without the safety "on," with perfect security: in the former case, after removing safety, the firer has only to pull the trigger as fast as he likes six times, as the recoil of the pistol not only revolves the cylinder to a fresh cartridge, but leaves the hammer at full cock: in the latter case it would be necessary to put the hammer at full cock for the first shot the same as in all Automatic weapons. The Revolver in other respects is so like an ordinary one that there is nothing new for the firer to become accustomed to: and the recoil being absorbed by the pistol itself, there is little or no jump, and the grip of the pistol is in no way interfered with. The Revolver is made in two sizes—one, the .455 6-shot, is specially designed for the Service Ammunition (.455 Cordite). The other, the .38 8-shot, is for the .38 Colt Automatic Cartridge.

"WEBLEY-FOSBERY" REVOLVER.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

TO LOAD.—Press with the thumb the stirrup lever on left side and depress the barrel; the rear of the cylinder will then be exposed and the extractor operated and returned to its place. Fill the chambers and reverse the movement of barrel; the stirrup will fly back and the loading be complete, leaving the hammer at half-bent.

TO FIRE.—Cock with the thumb and press the trigger.

AUTOMATIC ACTION.—After firing, the hammer will be found on full cock and the Pistol ready for another discharge as soon as the trigger has been released. All six shots can be thus fired with good aim in six seconds.

SAFETY BOLT.—This lies on left side of the Pistol, and when put "on" secures perfect safety, whether the hammer is half or full bent. It operates by locking the recoiling part of the Pistol to the body in such a position that the cock no longer rests on the half bent but is raised and held back by the cocking stud. In putting the safety bolt "on" the thumb of the left hand should be used to press it upwards while the finger clasps the barrel and retract it, so as to assist the bolt in compressing the recoil spring. In this manner the bolt can be put "on" whether the hammer is at half or full bent. It is always advisable when the Pistol is loaded, and a shot not immediately required, to put on the bolt. If bolted, the Pistol may safely be carried at full cock. It is easier and quicker to throw off the safety bolt than to raise the hammer to full bent. When bolted, the trigger is disengaged from the sear altogether, and consequently pressure on the trigger, with the bolt on, does not affect the lock. As soon as the bolt is thrown off by the thumb of the Pistol hand, the sear and trigger again engage and the latter in position to fire.

If, after firing one or more of the six rounds, it is desired to fill up with fresh cartridges, it is not necessary to lower the hammer, but the safety bolt should be put on before opening the breech to load. This secures safety and involves no appreciable delay in firing, as the bolt is easily thrown off.

When it is desired to rotate the cylinder for any reason, such as a mis-fire from defective cartridge, it is necessary to operate the recoil movement by hand: for this purpose, the stock being held by one hand, the hammer may be pulled back, bringing with it the barrel and frame and then released.

NOMENCLATURE OF "WEBLEY-FOSBERY."

1 Body	15 Joint Axis
2 Shield	15a Joint Axis Screw
3 Stirrup Fastener Spring	16 Recoiling Frame
4 Stirrup Fastener	17 Side Plates
4a Stirrup Fastener Screw	18 Side Plate Pins
5 Hammer	18a Side Plate Pin Screws
5a Hammer Swivel	19 Recoiling Lever
5b Hammer Swivel Axis	19a Swivel for 19
5c Hammer Screw	19b Axis for 19a
6 Sear and Spring	19c Axis for 19
6a Sear Axis	20 Recoiling Lever Spring
7 Main Spring	21 Butt Swivel
8 Stud for Safety Bolt	21a Butt Swivel Peg
9 Barrel Cylinder and Cylinder Axis	22 Trigger
10 Cylinder Catch and Positioning Stud	22a Trigger Axis
10a Axis for 10	23 Trigger Catch for preventing involuntary pull
10b Spring for 10	23a Spiral Spring for 23
11 Cylinder	23b Axis for 23
11a Cylinder Extractor	23c Plunger for 23
12 Cylinder Extractor Spiral Spring	24 Stocks
13 Cylinder Extractor Nut	24a Stock Screw
14 Cylinder Extractor Lever	25 Cam for Safety Bolt
14a Cylinder Extractor Lever Auxiliary	26 Lever for Safety Bolt
14b Plunger for 14a	27 Cocking Screw
14c Spring for 14a	28 Screw for Safety Bolt

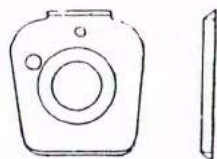
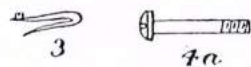
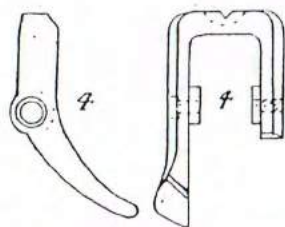
DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING ASUNDER.

1. Unscrew stock screw 24a.
2. Remove stocks 24.
3. Unscrew side plate. screws 18a.
4. Remove side plate 17 with safety lever and cocking screw attached.
5. Press side plate pins 18 to the level of the frame.
6. Press back recoiling lever 19 with the thumb and remove barrel. body. cylinders, &c., complete.
7. Open stirrup 4, press thumb piece 10 on top strap of barrel and remove cylinder.
8. To strip cylinder, unscrew extractor nut 13, take out spring 12, and then pull out extractor 11a.

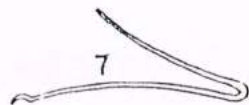
This is as far as the Pistol need be taken asunder under ordinary circumstances.

DIRECTIONS FOR REASSEMBLING.

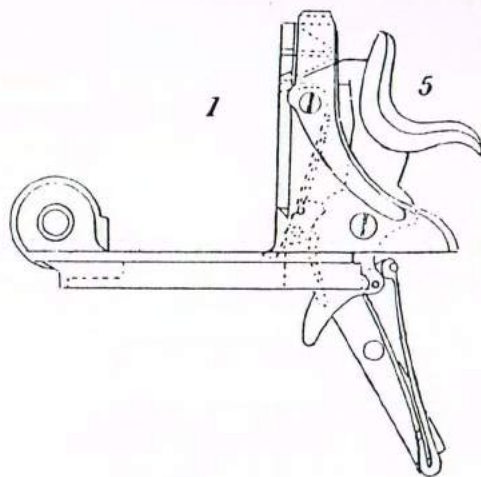
1. Press thumb piece 10 on top of barrel, place cylinder in position and close frame.
2. See that side plate pins are to level of frame, press back with thumb recoiling lever 19 and place barrel, body, cylinder, &c., in position, and then press side plate close to body, the studs of which will then project through left hand side of body. Place left hand side plate in position, screw in side plate screws, replace stocks in position and screw in stock screws.



2



7

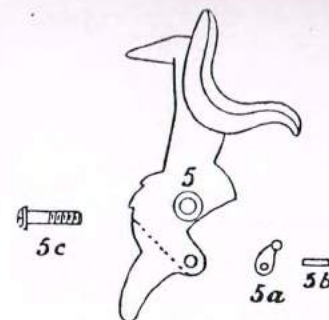


1

5



8

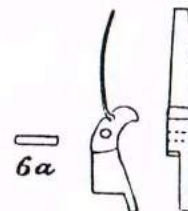


5c



5a

5b



6a

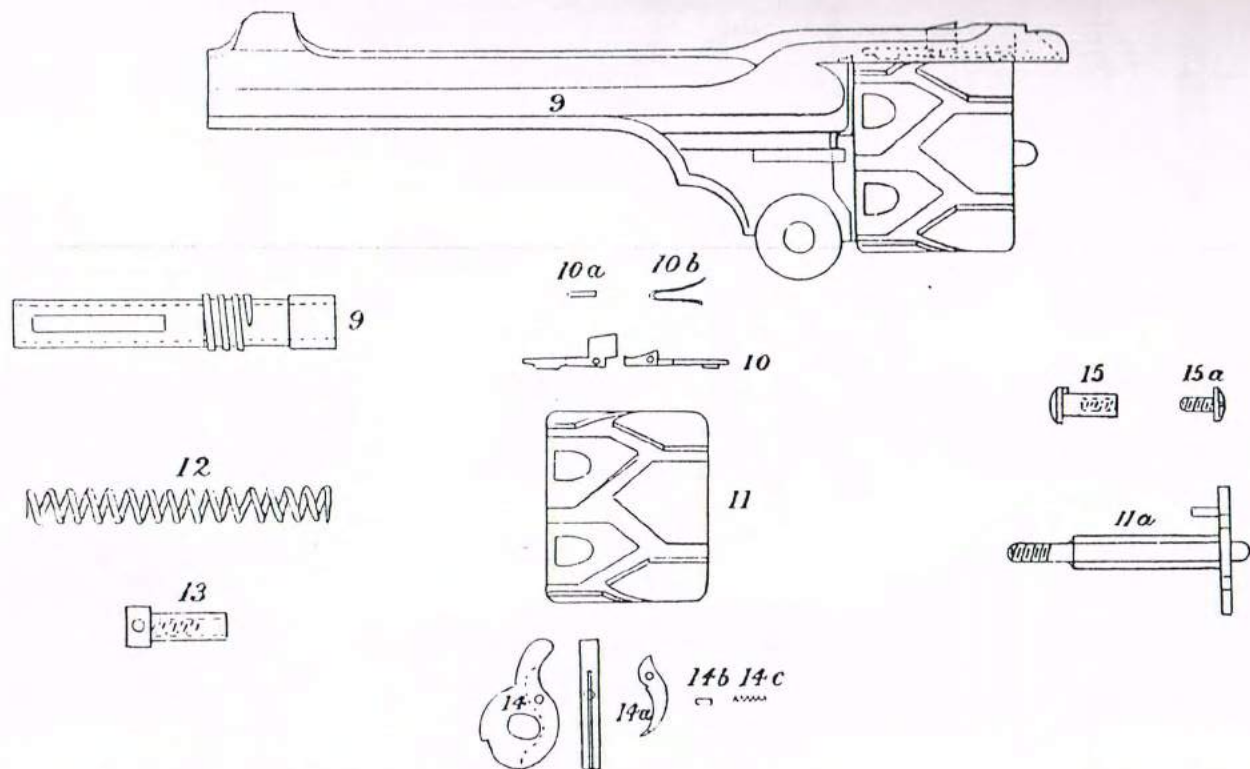
6

6b

- 1 Body
- 2 Shield
- 3 Stirrup Fastener Spring
- 4 Stirrup Fastener
- 4a Stirrup Fastener Screw

- 5 Hammer
- 5a Hammer Swivel
- 5b Hammer Swivel Axis
- 5c Hammer Screw

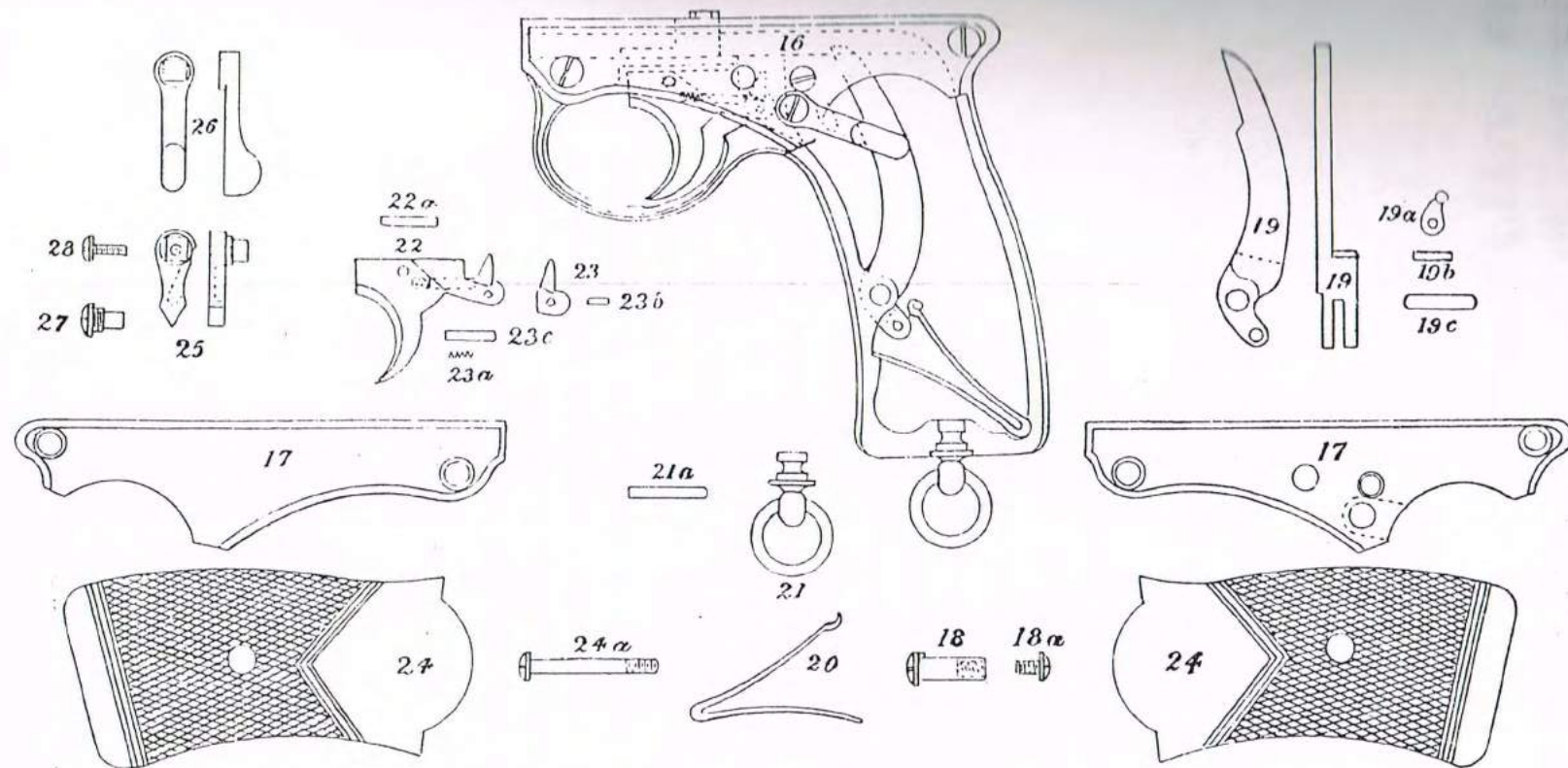
- 6 Sear and Spring
- 6a Sear Axis
- 7 Main Spring
- 8 Stud for Safety Bolt



- 9 Barrel Cylinder and Cylinder Axis
- 10 Cylinder Catch and Positioning Stud
- 10a Axis for 10
- 10b Spring for 10
- 11 Cylinder

- 11a Cylinder Extractor
- 12 Cylinder Extractor Spiral Spring
- 13 Cylinder Extractor Nut
- 14 Cylinder Extractor Lever
- 14a Cylinder Extractor Lever Auxiliary

- 14b Plunger for 14a
- 14c Spring for 14a
- 15 Joint Axis
- 15a Joint Axis Screw



16 Recoiling Frame
 17 Side Plates
 18 Side Plate Pins
 18a Side Plate Pin Screws
 19 Recoiling Lever
 19a Swivel for 19

19b Axis for 19a
 19c Axis for 19
 20 Recoiling Lever Spring
 21 Butt Swivel
 21a Butt Swivel Peg
 22 Trigger

22a Trigger Axis
 22b Trigger Axis for preventing
 involuntary pull
 22c Plunger for 23
 23 Trigger Catch for preventing
 involuntary pull
 23a Spiral Spring for 23
 23b Axis for 23
 23c Plunger for 23

24 Stocks
 24a Stock Screw
 25 Cam for Safety Bolt
 26 Lever for Safety Bolt
 27 Cocking Screw
 28 Screw for Safety Bolt

SOME HINTS ON REVOLVER SHOOTING IN COMPETITIONS.

By
Walter Winans.

EXTRACT from "THE SPORTS OF THE WORLD."

(Cassell & Company, Ltd.)

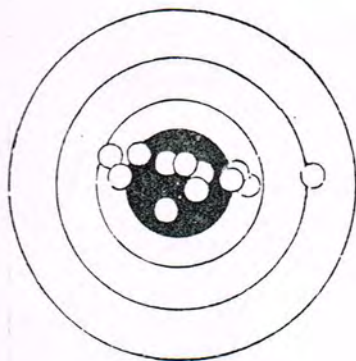
"The writer disapproves of double action revolvers in competitions, finding it almost impossible to make accurate shooting with them. As to automatic pistols may perhaps be of use. Messrs. Webley have produced a "Webley-Fosbery" automatic revolver in both .455 and .38 calibre, which the writer prefers to any of the automatic pistols that have yet come to his notice, and, for rapid firing, even to any other make of revolver. With it it is possible to fire shots at the rate of one a second with approximately the same accuracy as with any single-action revolver at the rate of one in two seconds. In both cases a good shot should be able to put most of his bullets into a two-inch bull's-eye at a 20 yards range."

WEBLEY-FOSBERY AUTOMATIC REVOLVER.

12 Shots at 12 paces in 20 Seconds,

SHOT BY

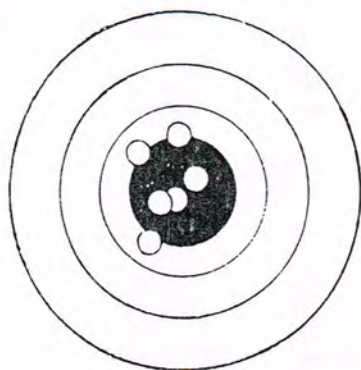
WALTER WINANS, Esq.



6 Shots at 12 paces in 7½ Seconds,

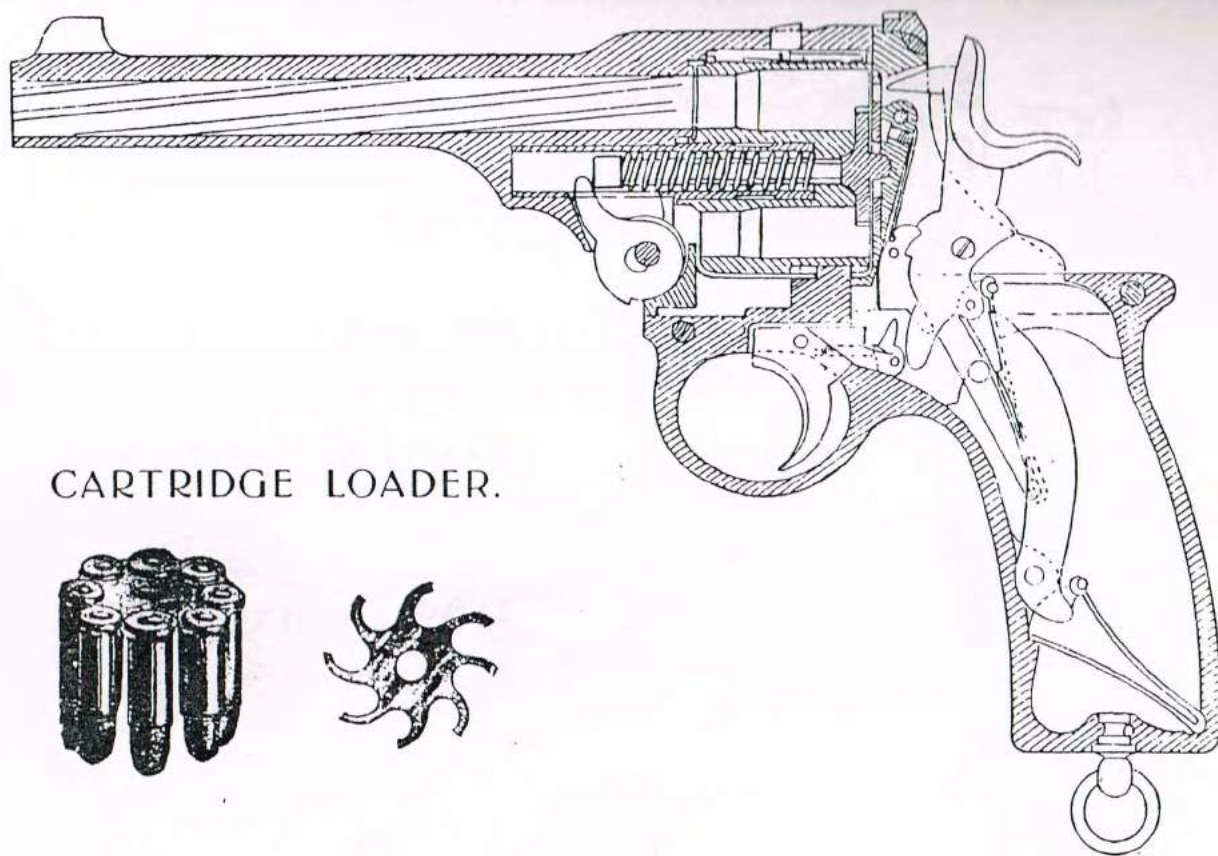
SHOT BY

WALTER WINANS, Esq.

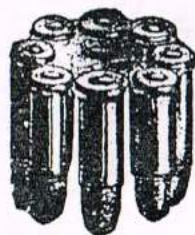


Targets 1/4 of Actual Size.

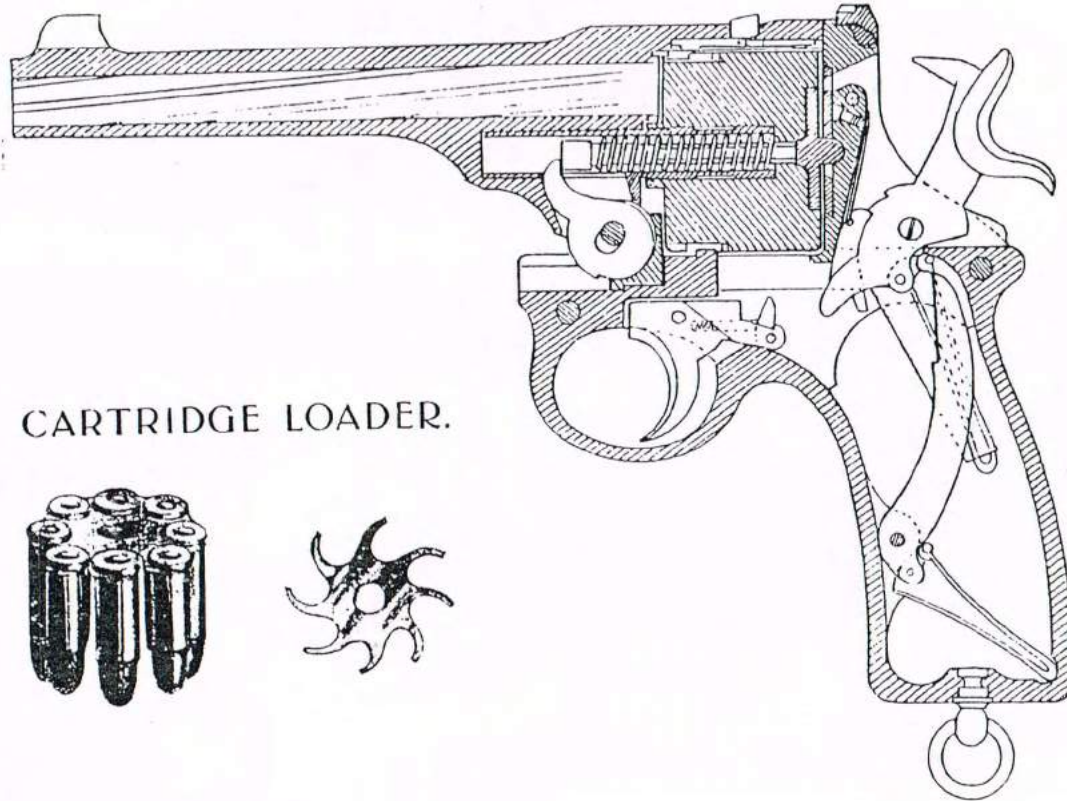
SECTION OF REVOLVER AT HALF COCK.



CARTRIDGE LOADER.



SECTION OF REVOLVER WHEN RECOILED TO FULL EXTENT.



The Webley-Fosbery Revolver.



PRESS NOTICES.

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Extract from THE COUNTY GENTLEMEN, July 20th, 1901.

During the past two or three years a great deal has been written concerning the merits and demerits of various German automatic pistols. We have said a good deal in favour of these weapons in our columns, for there was much to be said for their ingenuity of construction and effectiveness for the work their producers undertook to do with them. But we always qualified our commendation of them by the expression of a hope that English gunmakers should be able to utilise recoil in pistol or revolver, as was shown in the German automatic weapons. We are glad now to be able to state our belief that a new automatic revolver has been produced in this country that it is thought can well stand comparison with any foreign invention of the kind. We had an opportunity at Bisley last week of seeing the Webley-Fosbery automatic revolver in use at the ranges, and of examining its construction, every facility being afforded by the firm's London manager, Mr. J. H. Harris, J.P., who was in charge at Bisley, for testing the new weapon in any manner desired. The great advantage of the Webley-Fosbery over other automatic arms is that it takes the service ammunition, carrying a bullet nearly double the weight of pistols of the Mauser type. No automatic pistol, of course, is fitted to shoot service ammunition, and therefore that ability in the Webley-Fosbery strongly differentiates it from any automatic pistol now in the market.

Rapidity of Fire.

The six cartridges carried by the Webley-Fosbery can all be discharged with good aim in six seconds. We saw them discharged at the Bisley range in the course of a competition in a little over seven seconds, so that we can quite believe the claim that six seconds are sufficient to aim and fire all the six shots and get them all near the bull's-eye on the target at revolver ranges. In appearance the new revolver is very similar to an ordinary service one, so that there is nothing new for the firer to become accustomed to. The grip of the hand too is much surer, because most of the recoil is absorbed by the pistol itself, which utilises it for revolving the cylinder to a fresh cartridge with each shot, at the same time leaving the hammer at full cock. Then there is on the left side of the revolver, just opposite the thumb, an excellently designed safety bolt operating, whether the hammer is half or full bent, by locking the recoiling part of the revolver to the body, so that the cock does not rest on the half bent, but is raised and held back by the cocking stud. This safety bolt is very easily manipulated, and being equally effective whether the pistol is at full cock or not, it enables the revolver to be safely carried though at full cock ready for action, for one has only to push the safety bolt downwards with the thumb and the revolver is ready cocked for the first shot. For the remaining shots, of course, it

automatically cocks itself. The loading is very simple. The stirrup lever on the left side has to be pressed with the thumb and the barrel depressed, exposing the rear of the cylinder, when the extractor is operated and returned to its place. After filling the chambers with the aid of a very ingenious clip (the invention of Mr. Whiting, the works Manager), the movement of the barrel is reversed, the stirrup flies back, and the loading is complete. In loading, the safety bolt can be put on before opening the breech, thus obtaining safety even during re-loading.

General Features.

The Mechanism, if simple enough, is very strong and very unlikely to get out of order, a great desideratum in a service weapon. The bullet being heavier than that of any other automatic pistol yet produced must have the greatest stopping power of any of the automatic pistol bullets, a considerable advantage at close quarters. The length is 12in. and the weight 2lbs. 8½oz., and with 6¼ grs. of cordite it fires a bullet of .455 diameter weighing 265grs. The weight of the Colt automatic pistol again is 35ozs., the length of the barrel being the same as that of the Webley-Fosbery, and the whole length of the Colt 9in. Five shots per second is all that is claimed by the makers of the Colt, and the capacity of its magazine is seven cartridges. Altogether, therefore, it is believed that the Webley-Fosbery can compare very favourably with any automatic pistol made. We, of course, had no opportunity of submitting it to the sand or other tests which service weapons are understood to be put through, but as it is very much of the pattern of the present service weapon so far as outside appearance goes, there can be little doubt that it can easily stand the same tests. And to sum up its claims finally, we may draw attention to the consideration that it is wholly of English manufacture—a point that in these days of foreign importations is too often lost sight of.

*Extract from THE BROAD ARROW: THE NAVAL & MILITARY GAZETTE,
July 27th, 1901.*

Since the invention of the revolver pistol as a military weapon there has been a good deal of dispute amongst military men as to its value and utility as a Service weapon. However skilled in the use of it in America—where it originated—were its first users, it is certain that those who endeavoured to manipulate it in the Crimean War and in the Indian Mutiny were not altogether successful in scoring useful or valuable results. Indeed, at the beginning of practice with it in the field those results were not infrequently more disastrous to the individual aimer than to the individual or individuals aimed at. More careful attention and practice have now remedied to a great extent these shortcomings, but still there is much to be learnt regarding revolver practice and revolvers themselves. As to the latter, they have for many years been of foreign make—German automatic or American variations, or declared improvements of Colt's first system. The chief drawback to one and all of these was, and is, that they do not take our Service ammunition. It is very satisfactory therefore to be now able to record that an English made revolver is calling for notice which is not fraught with this drawback, but takes the Service ammunition and carries a bullet nearly double the weight of that used in pistols of the Mauser type. This revolver is called the Webley-Fosbery, and, it is said, will stand in favourable comparison with any foreign invention of the kind. Wholly of English manufacture—a point which ought to tell at the present time of so much foreign competition—it has shown its advantage over other competitors at Bisley in quickness and correctness of firing. It claims that

six seconds are sufficient to aim and fire six shots and get them all near the bull's-eye on the target at revolver ranges. In appearance the Webley-Fosbery revolver is very similar to the ordinary weapon, but the grip of the hand is much surer. The mechanism and the loading are both very simple, and consequently the weapon is very unlikely ever to get out of order. The bullet, being heavier than that of any other automatic pistol yet produced, must have the greatest stopping power—no small advantage at close quarters. Altogether therefore the Webley-Fosbery revolver seems the one destined to take precedence with British troops in the field to-day, in preference to all foreign or other rivals.

Extract from COUNTRY LIFE, July 27th, 1901.

It was at the Bisley Meeting of 1900 that the writer first shot with the Webley-Fosbery automatic revolver, but it was not by any means the first time he had seen it. It seems to have been a case in which a most simple and almost obvious device has given endless trouble to bring to that perfection which is assured before a weapon bears the imprint of the Government revolver-makers. At Bisley last year the Fosbery seems to have behaved somewhat differently in different hands. In that of the writer it went well, and there never was any hitch in the mechanism. The hitch that was said to have sometimes occurred still left it a far more deadly weapon than any other revolver whatever. It was said to skip a chamber occasionally, and when it did this it became, in practice, a five-chambered weapon instead of a six-shooter. That was the extent of the damage; but even if no improvement had ever been possible, the rapidity of the fire of its five chambers which was possible made it a most deadly weapon. Why it should have taken so long to perfect it is hard to conceive. It seemed to be a case in which a few hours would set the matter right, but it evidently was not. For only now it is again challenging public approval. This time also Bisley has been chosen to show the working of a weapon that surprises by its simplicity as well as by the fact that this simple action has never been resorted to before. It is one of those automatic weapons that are worked by their own recoil, and possibly it may have been because a great deal of misunderstanding about the value and nature of recoil has been created by misleading literature that this weapon has taken so much time to evolve into a perfect whole. But in this case it has not been complicated by requiring recoil to perform two separate functions, as it is in some of the automatic pistols. In some of these the barrel is allowed to recoil a short distance for the purpose of unlocking the action at a period of time after ignition when it is safe to unlock it—that is to say, it would not be safe to unlock the action by means of the first pressure on the gas acting on the empty cartridge-case. If it unlocked, the natural consequence would be as rapid an exit of the empty case as there is of the bullet, and that would be distinctly unpleasant. So it happens that the unlocking of the action and the ejection of the empty case are relegated to a distinct period of recoil, and most exact measurements have had to be made to ensure that, after the unlocking, there shall not be too much powder pressure left in the barrel, and yet that there shall be enough to perform the work required. But in the Fosbery revolver there is no occasion for this division of labour, and no reason apparently for nice adjustment of recoil work in regard to time. This is so, because recoil does not open the breech; it merely does the cocking, revolve the chambers, or cylinder, one-half a division, and compresses a spring which in its reaction revolves the cylinder another half division, and brings the next chamber and the cap exactly opposite to the striker. That is to all appearances a very simple thing to do; but when the writer remarked on the simplicity to Colonel Fosbery, the latter replied, "Try to make one." That was over a year ago,

and the invitation has not yet been accepted, not because the writer's view of the simplicity of the whole affair has been in any way altered (and he may say that he considers simplicity the soul of invention), but because he has no intention now, or ever, of fishing in protected waters.

However, although no double duty is required of direct recoil, it was possibly owing to the great energy of recoil that the weapon sometimes went wrong in its early stages. The bullet is a heavy one, the barrel and the cylinder are comparatively light and these are consequently recoiled at a very rapid rate, and one which would be much more rapid but for the spring the recoil has to compress.

The mechanism of the weapon is as follows: the handle is a separate piece with an extension support for the action. In this support the action slides back by the action of the recoil, and forward again by the reaction of the spring which the backward movement has compressed. It is easy to understand how the backward movement is made to cock the weapon and leave it at cock when the action has been forced forward again by the reaction of the compressed spring. It is not difficult either to see that if a stud is placed on the handle extension or fixture, so as to catch in grooves in the cylinder as it comes back, the latter will be revolved in any direction in which those grooves are slanted. That is the principle of the revolution of the chambers or cylinder. The grooves are cut like a V or a capital W, the V six times repeated, or the W three. In order, then, that the cylinder may be revolved one sixth of the complete revolution, the stud fixed in the handle must follow each leg of the V and complete that figure. This it does: the first leg of the grooved V is driven over the stud by the backward movement of the cylinder actuated by direct recoil. The second leg is completed by the spring, compressed in recoil, driving the cylinder forward over the stud in the second leg of the V. That completes the movement and leaves the chamber to be fired exactly opposite the striker. It not only leaves it there, but holds it firm, and yet it was just at this apparently simple point that a year ago the Fosbery failed to give its inventor complete satisfaction. How, or why, it occasionally jumped one chamber and placed the next but one, instead of the next, opposite the striker is not known, but it did so. It was a movement that appeared to be quite impossible, for it is necessary to believe that the barrel and the action came back twice and went forward as often under one shot—that is, that it was twice actuated by one recoil. The most peculiar thing about it was that it only acted like this occasionally, and this seemed to show that the bullet acting on the rifling might have something to do with overcoming some part of the backward action at times and not at others. At any rate, there was enough in this to make careful people think that the action of recoil was not always to be discovered by theory and figures.

Leaving that unprofitable part of the subject (which we have had no chance to examine on the weapon itself), it is much more satisfactory to turn to the work of the now perfected revolver. This has been at Bisley at this year's meeting, competing in the ordinary way against the other revolvers, and in a class to itself. In shooting it one does not feel the same kind of recoil as from other revolvers, but there is a shake which, although not unpleasant, is peculiar to this weapon.

The praise that has already been given to the automatic pistols will unquestionably be extended to the Fosbery revolver. There are points about it which are superior to any of the pistols, and the principal of these is the much greater size of the bullet and the stopping effect a big bullet always has. Probably the automatic principle is of vastly more importance in the revolver than in the rifle. It has been questioned, at any rate, by some military men whether the magazine even does not lead to wild shooting and loss of ammunition, but no such statement would be of the smallest value

against the quickest possible method of firing the revolver. This weapon is wanted for close distances ; it has always been a slow weapon used as a single action, and an inaccurate one used as a double action. The Fosbery gives us the accuracy of the single action weapon with far more than the rapidity of the double action, in which, as is well known, the trigger finger has to do the cocking, as well as to revolve the cylinder.

It is said, and probably with truth, that an experienced man can shoot this weapon six times in a second—of course this would be more or less without alignment. As a good runner can cover 100 yds. in about 10 sec., it is clear that a savage rushing at a Fosbery armed officer could be shot at six times while he was covering 10 yds. The revolver is not a weapon that is intended to be accurate at a long distance. If the majority of men can hit the figure of a man quickly at twenty paces, that satisfies them, but it is vastly more easy to do it at ten paces ; so that to enable the shooting to begin nearer, to make it safe to wait until the foe is half or a quarter the usual distance off before shooting begins, is the same in practice as an increase of accuracy ; a diagram of 16 square inches at 10 yds. becomes 64 square inches at 20 yds., and it becomes 256 square inches at 40 yds. That means that at 10 yds. one has sixteen times the chance of hitting as at 40 yds. There must be very many cases in which that would represent the difference of effectiveness between the new Fosbery revolver and the old double action weapon. The bore of the new revolver is .455—that is, it takes the Service bullet of 265 gr. It is 12 in. long, barrel 6 in., weight 2 lb. 8½ oz. and it takes either black powder or cordite—6¼ grs. of the latter.

Extract from THE SPORTING GOODS REVIEW, August 15th, 1901.

For a long time past, occasional mention has been made in these columns of the Webley-Fosbery automatic revolver, and now that it has finally been perfected, a description of what is practically a new departure in the manufacture of small-arms, will be followed with interest. The weapon is the outcome of a long series of experiments directed to secure a combination of some of the advantages of automatic pistols with the qualities possessed by the ordinary service revolver. In any double-action revolver the cylinder rotating and the hammer rising by the pull on the trigger secures a mechanical rapidity of fire, whereas in the Webley-Fosbery those actions are performed automatically through the instrumentality of recoil.

The revolver is of the Webley self-extracting type, with dropping barrel, and the loading of the cylinder is conducted in the ordinary way. The mechanism cannot be intelligibly described without the aid of diagrams, and we must therefore leave an exact delineation until we can present these aids to accuracy. The cylinder and barrel are mounted so as to be capable of a backward and forward travel upon a kind of platform. Of course the operations due to recoil take place so rapidly that they are a little difficult to follow with the eye. On the fall of the hammer the moveable barrel, cylinder, &c., are again in position : the backward energy of the recoil immediately slides them rearwardly, the pressure being taken up by a long limb pivotted inside the stock, which is called the recoiling lever. Through the lever passes a pin encircled by a coiled spring, and the backward travel serves to cock the hammer and also to compress the spring. The cylinder and barrel are then returned and carried forward, under the action of the spring-actuated recoiling lever, aided by the rebound from the recoil frame at the back of the stock, to again slide back by the force of the recoil on firing the next shot. Roughly as we have sketched these motions we think the principle has been made clear. It remains now to explain the revolution of the cylinder. An extension of the trigger-guard passes upwards through the

body of the revolver and is, of course, firmly fixed, by which we mean that it is in no way under the influence of the recoiling parts. A projection is formed on this extension, and is called the cylinder rotating stud. A glance at the cylinder shows a peculiarly shaped recess formed all round it, and it will be seen that the rotating stud, projecting from the body, must take into this recess. Now, when under the pressure of the recoiling lever the cylinder slides forward, it is obvious that this motion can only be accomplished by the recess accommodating itself to the fixed stud. If the cylinder were also fixed the forward motion would be impossible, as the form of the groove or recess necessitates a rotary movement. At the moment of firing, the cylinder being in its forward position, the stud lies at the extremity of the straight portion of the recess nearest the hand of the shooter. Immediately afterwards the cylinder flies back under the influence of recoil, and is revolved until it comes to rest with the stud in position at the front. Under the influence of the spring-actuated return movement a further rotary motion then takes place bringing the stud to the back and the cartridge into position to receive the blow of the hammer. Thus the necessary rotation is automatically imparted, half by the forward, half by the return travel of the recoiling parts.

A very efficient safety-bolt is fitted which lies on the left side of the pistol. It operates by locking the recoiling to the stationary part of the pistol in such a position that the cock no longer rests on the half bent but is raised and held back by the cocking-stud. The bolt to be placed at safety is simply pressed upwards, the barrel being lightly retracted meanwhile to get the bolt easily home against the pressure of the recoil spring. The safety can be put on when the hammer is at half or full cock, and as it is very easily operated and absolutely sure, should be used whenever the pistol is loaded, and there is no immediate intention of firing. In using the pistol it is of course necessary to cock before the first shot, after which the hammer is automatically thrown back, and the cylinder revolved so that all the chambers may be discharged in succession as quickly as the trigger can be pressed and released. If it is desired to reload before all the six rounds have been fired. It is not necessary to lower the hammer, but the safety bolt should be put on before opening the breech.

The rapidity and ease with which this new pistol can be manipulated will undoubtedly gain for it the favour of revolver shots generally, and the fact that the recoil instead of being exerted on the arm of the user is profitably expended on the mechanism of the pistol is a very great point in favour of the new weapon. We long ago concluded that non-automatic revolvers and automatic pistols presented such points of dissimilarity that attempts to compare them were a waste of time. The strong points of the one were the weak points of the other, and the test of relative efficiency really depends upon the purposes to which the arms are to be devoted. The Webley-Fosbery brings the revolver nearer to the magazine pistol in the matter of rapid firing, while one at least of the newest automatic pistols is looked to to challenge comparisons in the matter of stopping power by weight of bullet. Thus it may be that the old discussion will revive on new lines. Definite conclusions on these wide issues must, in our view, remain to be decided rather by experience than by opinion, but in any case Colonel Fosbery and Messrs. Webley and Scott are alike to be congratulated on the production of an entirely new weapon possessing undoubted merit, in the working out of which very considerable ingenuity and great mechanical skill has been displayed.