MACHINES, NOT MEN, A.D. 2005.

By W. EDWARD LUSH.

TO those who have been watching and studying the changes which have taken place in warfare, it is evident that, whereas in days of yore it was the intention of combatants to kill as many of their enemies as possible, it has now become the object to destroy as much of the enemy's most valuable war property, whether it be ships, or forts, or towns, and to treat the loss of life as a necessary though inconvenient accompaniment which ought to be avoided as much as possible consistently with the object of victory. Now, it was with this knowledge firmly fixed in his mind that the great Military Engineer, Colonel Lyddite Electron Smith, brought out those modern inventions which have, in this year of our Lord 2005, so completely revolutionized all modern warfare. Finding it possible, after much patient investigation and many tentative inventions, to gain by a special electric machine the power of aiming a gun without being near it, but only by being connected with it by an electric current, either on wire or ethereal, he at last brought out his marvellous invention which was duly commended by the Hague Conference, bought up in dozens by the great Powers, and now is used instead of the old-fashioned armies, the costly artillery, and so forth. It is unquestionably of the greatest advantage for a General to be able to sit in his explosive-proof mine, with his electric communicator like the console of a modern organ in front of him, and not only actually fight, but also thoroughly enjoy the whole battle himself.

For the sake of those who are not military experts, it may be as well to explain the whole working of the machine, how it was invented, and how the many other inventions of the day entered into its evolution. The usefulness of a motor-car at a review struck Colonel Smith, and then he built one to carry a Maxim gun. After some time, by a careful adjustment of ball-bearing riflings in his modified Maxim, he found it possible to make the very explosions of the gun help the motor-car forward; it then occurred to him that it would be possible to work a motor-car for battery purposes with electric power to run out a definite distance of, say, not more than a mile, and return, coiling up its own cable. At last he reached the electric control of the car so perfectly that he could on a high hill, and by a variety of electric appliances, not only run, stop and steer the car, but also to a certain extent aim the gun and set it into action, doing great devastation among the things which he had erected to practise at.

This in itself was a remarkable engine of war. But a system of wireless electricity with many currents and different sets of instruments, attuned as it were to each to pick up the current meant for it, gave him a still greater power, until on the summit of his inventions he hit upon the greatest of all, one