

THE ARMY AGENS: C.B. OR THE CANE?

For a thousand cadets, training at Harrogate's Army Apprentices School, life is seldom dull. Because their commanding officer, Colonel Kendrew, a former England rugger captain, believes that "caning" is a better punishment than the old Army idea of "confined to barrack," these young soldiers are now the centre of a nationwide controversy - Should army apprentices, who are taught a trade as well as soldiering, be treated like soldiers or like schoolboys? The youngsters think there should be a bit of each. The parents see nothing wrong with a cane, occasionally, to enforce discipline. More schoolboys than soldiers, the boys' training lasts three years. They are given a thorough grounding in their chosen trades, while their general education is also furthered.

Whether the schoolmasters' can will supersede the soldierly C.B., not even Monty knows. One thing is sure, whether they are caned or confined to barracks, of sturdy, healthy boys like these, every parent can be proud.