



The Lesson

This is the normal way of teaching a skill or automatic action, involving explanation, demonstration, imitation and practice. Factual subjects can also be taught by means of the lesson.

Lecture

This is a useful way of putting over general subjects to a large number of people. It is a poor way of teaching unless those attending desire to learn; it is however a useful way of building up background knowledge. On the higher level of instruction, where there is an incentive to learn. The lecture does to some extent take the place of the lesson.

The Discussion

This is useful as a follow-up to lectures, demonstrations, films, etc., as it confirms the teaching. As a medium of instruction itself it is useful for exchanging students' knowledge, providing a variation in instruction, teaching individuals to express themselves and argue a case logically, and building up a general background. The disadvantages of the discussion are:

- A higher standard of instructor is needed as control is more difficult than in the lecture or lesson.
- The instructor has to spend more time in preparation as his knowledge has to be wider; the course of the discussion depends largely on the views of the students.
- Discussions can only be run on subjects which are a matter of opinion and for people capable of expressing an opinion.
- At the lower level it may be difficult to teach a specific topic through the medium of a discussion.

A worthwhile discussion is only possible if the instructor is good and the cadets taking part are the older and more mature ones and their numbers are small.

The Demonstration

This varies from a large scale and expensive demonstration to a simple illustration by an instructor. To be of value as a way of teaching, the demonstration must be accompanied by a commentary, lecture or discussion.

The Exercise

This takes the form of a cloth/sand model exercise which can be done indoors.