

The Ways of Teaching

The Introduction

Instruction is normally carried out through the medium of the following:

1. **Lesson.**
2. **Lecture.**
3. **Discussion.**
4. **Demonstration.**
5. **Exercise out of doors or with the help of sand or cloth model.**

Many of these can be combined, e.g., the lecture and the discussion; they are dealt with individually in the following paragraphs.

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. The point to remember is that the instructor is able to maintain a close contact with the class and can check that they really are learning by keeping up a question and answer type of dialogue. The disadvantage of the lesson is that the numbers that can be taught at anyone time are limited.

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.

When teaching cadets the lesson is preferable for teaching purposes, the lecture for building up background or general knowledge.

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:

1. A higher standard of instructor is needed as control is more difficult than in the lecture or lesson.
2. 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.
3. Discussions can only be run on subjects which are a matter of opinion and for people capable of expressing an opinion.

4. 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 good instructor should be capable of improvising his own simple demonstration.

The Exercise

This may take the form of a cloth/sand model exercise which can be done indoors. or a tactical exercise without cadets (TEWC) which must take place out of doors. The TEWC involves less time, expense and space than an exercise with troops which must take place out of doors and requires much more organization of time and space because of the numbers taking part.

Conclusion

All these are of value in teaching cadets but they must be used in the right way. The lesson is probably the best medium for basic instruction.

It is emphasized that the principles of good instruction apply equally to all the above ways of teaching.