

the camp, some going so far as to say that the time could be more profitably spent in rifle shooting than in any other way. The drillmaster, however, contends that there is already too much of the time taken for shooting, or rather that there is not enough taken for the marching and setting up of the men. Doubtless, here, as in many other things, the happy mean might be struck with profit, especially if the men were marched to and from the ranges with regularity, and were kept under strict control while there, and did a large amount of section volley firing with a view to securing fire discipline. Another plan suggested to me by an officer of my acquaintance, is to have a rifle camp on each district, at a time other than that set for the annual drill. This, he said, every militiaman in the district should be invited to attend, on the understanding that he would not there be required to compete with crack shots, but be required only to obtain a certain number of points which would entitle him to a marksman's badge and a certain sum of money. He thought that this would encourage practice (the main object) by men who have confidence in their ability to reach a certain standard, but who would shrink from a competition with Bisley winners and others who have greater opportunities. Another plan I have heard has been advocated by a staff officer, and it is this: Let the men of a company be got together at the company headquarters on the occasion of the brigade-major's inspection and have them shoot in his presence, and have him certify as to the result. Upon his report, or that of the deputy adjutant-general of the district, have the district paymaster instructed to pay the sums earned. This, no doubt, would be a good plan if there were a suitable range at each company headquarters; but at very few does a proper and safe one exist. Another proposition is to give a larger rate of pay per day to those who make good shooting in camp. Which of these different plans would be the best it is difficult to determine, but that something is needed there can be no question, and it would be well, I think, if those who are conversant with the subject, and take an interest in it, would give their ideas as to what system would be the most convenient for the men who compose the force, and at the same time be the best calculated to secure satisfactory results."

So says my friend, and I agree with him, but, as I believe in advocating a positive plan, I may say that I am in favor of compelling the men to do half an hour's aiming and position drill every morning in camp, and of firing at least 100 rounds of ammunition during their training, and of that amount, 80 rounds should be by word of command to teach them fire discipline.