

Observation of Fire. Observation, with one or two exceptions, was again faulty. A few Commanding Officers were so intent in watching the target that for several seconds they failed to see the signals of their section commanders.

Concentration and Distribution. The same remarks apply this year. A study of the diagram of hits in the several series will explain my meaning. This year, to encourage distribution, points were only allowed for one hit; but last year all hits were counted.

PART II. NEW MATTER.

1. A rigid adherence to regulation methods advised.
2. The introduction of a moving target.
3. The substitution of a time for an ammunition limit.
4. Fire from behind cover.

1st. *Adherence to Regulation Methods.* A strict adherence to regulation methods is of more importance than is sometimes considered.

There may be, for instance, better ways of ranging a battery than that which is in our drill book; but it must be remembered that the drill book is the result of the collective experience of many years. If there was no such thing as casualties, there would be little harm in each Commanding Officer elaborating a system for himself. Unfortunately we are all mortal, therefore, what could be more disastrous on service than the sudden accession to command of a Major with a system of his own, totally different from that in which the battery had been drilled.

A special system would be objectionable too, when a battery drilled to it compose part of a brigade division—it would lead to confusion which should be avoided. This illustrates how careful all should be to ignore special systems.

For service purposes it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of a rigid adherence to the drill book.

The few differences in ranging which were noticed arose from a want of the full appreciation of that which is compiled for our guidance, and not from a desire to introduce something which was considered more effective.

A very noticeable difference in the drill of the C.O.'s was observed in the handling of the battery from the camp to the range; but as this hardly came within the term "Fire Discipline," no marks were deducted for errors. Next year it is proposed to note all errors from the time the battery leaves camp until it returns.

2nd. *Moving Target.* The introduction of the moving target was an important feature of the meeting, and was a high test of the C.O.'s capability to direct and control the fire.