

A. B. C. OF SNAP SHOOTING

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A. B. C. of snap shooting by Horace Fletcher

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HORACE FLETCHER

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SNAP SHOOTING
BY HORACE FLETCHER.



SPORTING, EXHIBITION, AND MILITARY.

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SAN FRANCISCO, 1880.

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PREFACE.

MY OBJECT in publishing this little book is to explain a method of teaching Snap Shooting, by using the rifle in practice, which, by its economy, ease, quickness, and fascination, will recommend itself to any who are desirous of becoming skillful in the use of firearms.

It is true that by this method almost any one can make himself a good snap shot in a few weeks or months, according to the amount of practice indulged in, and that too at very small cost.

I make no claim for it, except that having received the original idea from Dr. Carver, I have demonstrated for myself and seen several friends demonstrate its practicability beyond a doubt.

I submit it for what it may be worth.

HORACE FLETCHER.

SNAP SHOOTING DEFINED.

Snap shooting is the throwing of both the rear and front sights of a gun into line between the eye and the target and pulling the trigger, all in one motion, and is distinguished by that name from any shooting where the aim is leisurely taken, by bringing the piece to the shoulder, getting the sights in line, hunting the target and pulling the trigger when the aim is most steady.

ANOTHER DEFINITION.

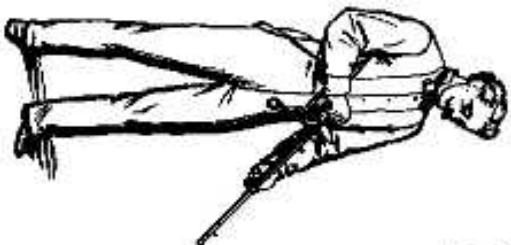
In snap shooting, the eye catches the target, and the attention is riveted on it, while the piece comes into line instinctively.

In other shooting, the attention is turned from the target to the gun and sights, and after getting them in line, is returned to the target.

The practice of snap shooting does not interfere with aiming at leisure, but aiming at leisure unfits one for snap shooting.

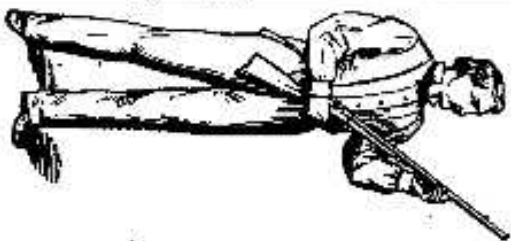
When the face is in danger, the hand comes before it instinctively to protect it; and in the same manner when a target appears the gun should as instinctively and quickly find its place in line between it and the eyes.

This is necessary to the perfect *snap shot*.



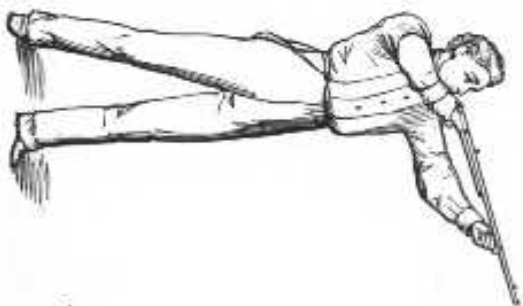
First Position.
LOADING.

After inserting the cartridge, close the breech and swing the piece up to the second position.



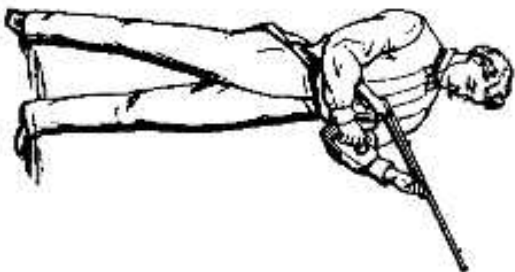
Second Position.
READY.

The piece should be cocked only in this position.



Third Position.
AIMING.

After firing, drop the piece immediately to the fourth position.



Fourth Position.
EXTRACTING.

Extract and re-load as quickly as possible in order to be ready to fire again.

RULES OF SAFETY.

The following rules of safety should *never* be disregarded:

1. On taking a firearm in your hands, see for yourself if it be loaded or not, and *never* take any one's word for it.
 2. Keep the muzzle of a loaded gun above the level of the eye, and hold a pistol at a corresponding angle.
 3. Handle all firearms as if loaded.
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NOTE.—The Numbers scattered through "The Outfit," and "Rules of Practice," refer to paragraphs further on, correspondingly numbered, which are explanatory of terms used, and give the reasons for the suggestions offered.

This plan relieves the *pit*h of the book from any confusing element.

THE OUTFIT.

Three¹ persons purchase a .22² calibre rifle,³ having a shot-gun⁴ stock, and buck-horn,⁵ or clover-leaf rear sight, a supply of short cartridges,⁶ and a Fletcher bell-ball.⁷

The place for practice should be open⁸ ground, or in front of a bulkhead,⁹ at least twenty-five feet in height, and three soft pine boards in thickness.

RULES FOR PRACTICE.

1. Each should take his turn in the positions of **FIRER**, **TOSSEK**, and **SCORER**.¹⁰

2. The **TOSSEK** should stand ten¹¹ feet distant from the **FIRER**, with his side¹² to him, and toss the bell-ball about fifteen¹³ feet high, and so that it will fall on soft ground,¹⁴ two or three¹⁵ feet in front of where he (the **Tosser**) is standing.

3. The **FIRER** should disencumber his shoulders of anything that in any way interferes with their free action, by removing his coat, vest and suspenders, and stand firmly¹⁶