

FISHING.—No. VIII.

In reference to my remarks in a former article on split cane rods. I have had the pleasure of seeing a selection of very good ones at Mr. T. J. Egan's; though this is the first season that Mr. Egan has shown any fishing tackle for some years, it is evident he has not forgotten how and what to buy. The rods he has on view are exceptionally well finished, and though they do look very light, will, with ordinary care, land any fish one is likely to come across. Also, I can strongly recommend a boy's rod, of which Mr. Egan makes a specialty, and which he sells at a very reasonable price.

At the end of this article I have given the names and description of two more flies, which I trust may be of use to my brother anglers.

And now I would give a few hints as to "Casting." The first thing a beginner has to learn is, how to cast overhand; he should commence with a short line, say about 12 yards, and being able to make a good cast with that, gradually lengthen the line, when with perseverance he will soon be able to cast from 20 to 25 yards, which for general purposes is as far as is wanted. To make a clean cast overhand it is necessary that the line should be lifted right out of the water, and that it should be thrown back, behind the angler's back to its fullest extent, before making the forward cast. If this is not done the chances are the fly will be cracked off, or else line and fly will fall all in a heap together. In a proper cast the line should be thrown clean out, down and across the stream at an angle of 45°. As soon as the fly touches the water the rod should be held at an angle of about 10° down stream and it should remain in that position till the fly is about mid stream, when the point should gradually follow the fly until the completion of the cast: by this means the fly will have a more natural appearance, and owing to its slow rate of progression every fish in the pool will have a fair chance of seeing it, and if one rises will most likely be well hooked. There are many good fishermen who advocate casting straight across stream, saying that many more fish are risen; this may be so, but I maintain that more are killed by casting down and across. Always strive that the fly shall commence to "fish" directly it touches the water, to bring this about, a foot of line may be taken in with the hand through the rings when the forward cast is made, which will straighten the line, and the fly will work at once. When the overhand cast has been perfected, the beginner may begin his lessons in casting underhand, which it is most necessary he should learn. This of course wants a great deal more practice than the overhand, and requires a rod with a more powerful top, to accomplish it successfully. Great care must be taken that the whole of the line is clear of the water before attempting to cast. To learn how to cast underhand, can only be attained by practice, and every angler has many opportunities of bringing it into use.

There are great diversities of opinion as to how a fly should be worked. Some fisherman shake their rod, as if they wanted, as it were, to saw the water, which is to a very great extent labour in vain,—for this reason, that if you have an ordinary length of line out, the action of the point of the rod does not affect the line at the distance the fly is working. Of course fishing with a very short line this might answer, but the fact is that in a stream there is no real necessity to work the fly at all, the action of the water being sufficient.

To prove this, it is necessary to watch men fishing with that invention of the evil one, a cross line, where the flies are all but stationary, and after watching salmon rise at them, I am sure any one would be convinced that there is no necessity to work the fly. The most deadly method is to hold the point of the rod well down, allowing the fly to sink as deep as possible. If the fly is worked at all it should be in dead water and then only by a slow up and down movement of the top of the rod. The proper way to fish a pool is to begin at the head moving down stream about a step between each cast, always being careful that the former cast is completed before making a new one. One very bad habit young fishermen are liable to get into is, having taken the one step down-

ward, and made their cast, they without seeming to notice it take two or three more steps onward.

When a fish has risen at a fly, it is best to wait say half a minute before trying him again, the angler being careful to remain stationary. Should he not rise again after two or three throws, a smaller fly might be tried: if this should prove unsuccessful the fish should be left for 15 or 20 minutes, the angler remembering before leaving the spot, to make some mark whereby he will know the exact place again. If when fishing a pool several fish rise, but are only pricked, it is a sure sign that the fly is too large, and the pool should be fished over again with a smaller one.

There are different methods of striking a salmon. Some good anglers say "strike a rising fish from the winch, without the line being touched." Others again, "it is necessary to strike with the line held tight between hand and rod." I personally think that the line being held tight between hand and rod, the fish will hook himself without any need of striking, and I feel convinced that with salmon, striking is a mistake. We all know that the salmon has wonderful power of ejecting what he does not think is good for him, and therefore those who advocate striking, have some show on their side, saying as they do, "get the hook fixed as soon as possible." But again, how would this work when a fish comes open-mouthed at the fly? By striking them you defeat the object you have in view. Another argument in favor of not striking is that a fish having risen a trifle short, the fly being allowed to go on its regular course, he will be more likely to come again than if the fly had been suddenly snatched away from him. The young fisherman may make his mind easy when he sees a salmon leisurely following a fly that he is not going to catch him, for in following, the salmon, before he knows it finds himself in shallow water, gets scared, and is seen no more. After all, these methods of striking are only practiced by individuals—one may be as good as another, so that it will be as well for the beginner to try them all, and judge by the results. In my next I will touch on playing the salmon when hooked.

Salmon Flies: The "Durham Ranger." The best of bright flies, if not made too large.

Tag: Silver twist and light yellow silk. *Tail:* A topping and Indian Crow. *Butt:* Black herl. *Body:* Two turns of orange silk, two turns dark orange seal's fur, the rest black seal's fur. *Ribbed:* Silver lace and silver tinsel. *Hackle:* A white coch-y-bouddu dyed orange. *Throat:* Light blue hackle. *Wings:* Four golden pheasant's tippets overlapping, enveloping two jungle fowl, back to back. *Cheeks:* Chaltherm. *Horns:* Blue Macaw. *Head:* Black Berlin wool.

The "Beaufort moth." The most useful fly for evening fishing on any water.

Tag: Gold tinsel. *Tail:* Golden pheasant topping. *Body:* Bronze peacock herl, rubbed with gold tinsel. *Hackle:* *Throat:* Red cock's (throat hackle only). *Wings:* Two small white hen feathers. *Head:* Peacock herl.

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