

code, many hosts might reckon the sheet of cautions too prolix to obtain full perusal. Those who hold this view might accordingly content themselves with promulgating the more generic and terser principles, while others might be willing to risk the sneer of the incautious by specifically splitting up the "look ahead" maxim into its varieties aforesaid—of wary eyes in the open, avoidance of "following" with the gun, and abstention by guns back from low feather flying forward. Under this "look ahead" rule would also come the caution of noting where rocks or blints lie, which may deflect shot, a matter of much importance in upland countries, and on some chalk soils. We should be inclined to add as a fourth rule, for hammerless guns, that all such weapons should be invariably bolted at "safety" until the instant of bringing the gun to the shoulder.

It might be difficult to lay down any hard and fast terms of a code, but we have sketched what we think would, at least, be a minimum terse reminder of generic principles that should never be reckoned de trop in any gun room. We are quite aware that there is a class of shots, often clever while careless, and whose skill seems to justify their sneer as ex cathedra, who are wont to deride excessive caution and to define as "old womanish" some old stager who makes a point of disarming at trivial obstacles which can be almost taken in the stride (two-foot fences or grips, and the like). A genuine sportsman can, however, well afford to let such gibes pass unnoticed; he knows from long experience the importance of being absolutely mechanical in precautions, and for this reason he avoids discriminating between obstacles, and deals with all alike as calling for disarmament, lest, if he fall into the habit of picking and choosing, he should some day be caught napping by under-estimating the difficulty of one. In conclusion, we would once more remind hosts of the importance of being personally peremptory on the subject of caution on the part of guests, and of rebuking on the spot any violation of it. They need not fear obloquy. Some whipper-snapper subaltern or undergraduate may wince and sulk at being warned, and an older man may even consider himself entitled to take umbrage at being called to order; but the host may rely upon it that every true sportsman will brack him up and be grateful to him for thus realizing his responsibilities. If there were more outspoken Nestors in the shooting field and in the symposium which winds up the day, there would be fewer "accidents," so called, which, if they had their deserts, should in most cases bring their perpetrators to the dock of assizes.

SHALL GUIDES SERVE UNARMED?

Maine guides have suffered severely in the estimation of Boston sportsmen, because of the accidental shooting of a hunter by his guide, which accident was the first of a series of fatalities or injuries reported.

The guide's carelessness is defended by one well-known sportsman in the following explanation:

"When one shoots a deer in the woods, it is in 99 cases out of 100 a chance shot, and one never sees the whole of the animal that he is firing at. We see the animal one minute when it is moving in some direction. At once the gun is prepared for a shot that way. The hunter will invariably cock his gun, and following along comes to an opening where he is certain the animal will appear in a minute. When he appears it is a case of pull the trigger at the right second or the animal is out of sight again. We cover the opening and the first thing that comes along gets the bullet."

Not all sportsmen are inclined to adopt such a view, as evidenced by this declaration from Burt L. Young:

"If it was the guide was not controlled by that rule which should be the invariable one among all hunters—never to press the trigger until it is known whether a human being or a deer is the target; better lose a deer than a man.

"It is true that adherence to this rule will lose the sportsman a deer now and then, but the following of the other rule has been the cause of the frequent repetition of such unfortunate accidents as that at Grindstone. In making it my rule of action never to fire until I know for certain whether legitimate game is before me, I have been disappointed a few times in missing a shot at a deer, but I believe the statement that in 99 cases out of 100 it is a chance shot is far from the truth, if by that is meant that in 99 per cent. of the cases the sportsman does not know what is before him."

Apropos of this subject, one critic has brought forward a suggestion that has aroused the guides to indignation. He says:

"One thing is certain—if the guide had carried no gun, and been expected to merely find the game, rather than shoot it, for his employer, he would never have shot a man.

"Several well-known guides will not carry a rifle when they are out guiding, contending that, as they expect the sportsman to shoot his deer for himself, and it is merely their business to take the latter to the place where the game is, and they would not like to have a loaded rifle carried behind them by anyone, they don't care to run any unnecessary risks. To be

sure, if this plan was followed out generally, many who call themselves sportsmen, but who couldn't hit the broadest side of a barn on a calm day, and have to hire their guides to knock over their game, would go hence empty-handed, but better that a hundred lose their game than one human life be sacrificed."—Boston Sunday Journal.

Our opinion is that in deer and moose and such hunting, guides should not carry rifles, and we would not permit a guide to do so, though having no objection to him keeping one in the camp if he wants to, and some guides feel happier when they may. Possibly if we intended to tackle a grizzly at close quarters, we might approve of the guide fairly bristling with "dedly weepons."

Stray Shots

Mr. Thos. Donley will hold his third annual tournament at St. Thomas, Ont., on Dec. 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th. Mr. Donley guarantees purses to the amount of over \$1,300 in different target and live bird events, besides adding all surplus money, and promises that this will be the biggest and best tournament ever held in Canada. The first and third days will be devoted to targets. On each of these days there will be eight events, with a total of 115 targets. Total entrance, \$13.50. Total guarantee, \$260. The second day will consist of one 5 live-bird event, \$3.75 entrance, \$75 guaranteed; one 7 live-bird event, \$5.25 entrance, \$100 guaranteed, and one 10 live-bird event, \$7.50 entrance, \$200 guarantee. On the fourth and last day there will be a 25 live-bird event for an international trophy valued at \$250 and a guaranteed purse of \$700, all surplus being added.

Quail shooting opened in Ontario on the 15th October with a plentiful supply of these choice game birds for the enterprising gunner who had sufficient skill to catch them on the wing. The opening days were hot and dry, and as usual with a plethora of half-grown birds, consequently, the result as a rule was unsatisfactory and distressing to dogs and gunners. It is the almost universal opinion that the quail season opens at least a fortnight too soon, but as yet the powers that be have turned a deaf ear to the numerous appeals for a later season.

The Hamilton Gun Club has elected the following officers: President, Dr. J. E. Overholt; vice-president, William Langhorn; secretary, Harry Graham; treasurer, Frank Vallance, captain, James Crooks; auditors, E. B. Wingate and Dr. Baxter; directors, Dr. Baxter, E. B. Wingate, Dr. Malloch, T. Crooks, Dr. Beam, Maurice Reedox and J. Smith. The club will hold its usual tournament in January.