

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE THREE ASSOCIATIONS FISHERY SOCIETY.

SIR,—The proprietors of the River Wey Navigation, from whom we have rented four and a quarter miles of the river, kindly gave me notice of their intention to draw down the water between the Weybridge and Newhaw Locks, on the night of May 30th.

I had several important engagements for Tuesday evening and Wednesday, and was therefore unable to go down. I was naturally very anxious for the safety of the fish, especially as I knew the number of rascals who would appear on the scene with all sorts of appliances for their destruction. They have defied me to interfere with them on previous occasions, and I should have been pleased to witness their discomfiture in this instance.

The notice was so short that there was no time for consultation. Thompson, the T.A.P.S. river keeper, in whom I have great confidence, was just the man to manage the job. I wrote him to take it in hand, and to report to me the result. I have just received that report, and, as it will no doubt be interesting to many of our readers to learn that we have fish in that water, and that they have been properly protected at a time when they would otherwise have been at the mercy of the Weybridge out-of-season, and out-at-elbow piscatorialists, I will ask you to publish it.

I should like to add that I wrote to the president of the T.A.P.S. informing him of the liberty I had taken in asking Thompson to leave his ordinary duties. Mr. Spreckley, replied he was pleased that Thompson should have assisted us. —I am, &c., P. GEEN.

[COPY.]

Eastworth, Chertsey, June 1.

SIR,—I beg to report to you that I have watched the river Wey, which has been emptied, and, to the best of my knowledge, not a fish has been taken out.

Mr. Bungard, the chief inspector of police, sent me a man; he met me at Newhaw at 10 p.m., and remained with me till six in the morning. I found by the foreman of the river that they would not fill in till about eleven or twelve o'clock that night; so, knowing that the river mustn't be left, I engaged another man (one I could trust) to assist me during the day. I engaged him from six in the morning till twelve at night for 5s. He is an ex-policeman. He relieved me while I went home to refresh, and then we both stuck to it till the water came in again and the river safe.

It was well that you took the precaution to have the river watched, for as soon as it got wind it was going to be drawn the idlers were about with sacks and baskets and landing nets to get the fish out. They couldn't make it out seeing me and the policeman there; they said they always were able to do it and ought to now. I told them the water was rented and they wouldn't be allowed to do so again. But, however, they went away again grumbling, and then again all day up to the time of the water coming down I was troubled with the street arabs after the fish, and some of them led us a fine dance, for as soon as our backs were turned for another part there would be a lot more come. We had to keep on the move all the time.

The water was lowered down to about 6 inches, so low, indeed, that the fins of the fish were above the water, and a splendid lot of fish they were too. I saw a few thousands of them, roach, chub, dace, and jack, and a few tench. Of course the biggest of them got in the deep by the flour mill bed, and there were a few bushels of them there I know by the agitation of the water. I am told that the last time the water was drawn off these fellows took away sacks full of fish and sold them, but I can answer for it, this time they didn't take one. I suppose you will want it watched now you have taken it over.

Mr. Bungard asked me to tell you that he charges 5s. for his man for the night; he is so busy or would have written to you. My expenses are 2s. and 5s. for the man, which will make 12s. in all. What am I to do, am I to charge it to our committee or to you?

Hoping, sir, that what I have done will meet with your approval—I am, &c., ALFRED THOMPSON.

HOOKS; AND CHARACTERISTICS OF *ABRAMIS BRAMA*.

SIR,—I ask your permission to allow me to thank Mr. J. H. Keene for being so good as to appreciate the merits of my invention so highly as to have the temerity to appropriate whatever honour may be due to the results of a long experience as his own; notwithstanding that several years have transpired since—after having already proved that existing ideas were erroneous, by imparting a proper inflection to various hooks—I brought out practically, and not theoretically, an implement with the requisite qualities, which Mr. Keene is now so kind as to adduce as the eliminations of his own inventive genius.

This hook was described and represented in diagrams some years ago in the FISHING GAZETTE, long after it had been practically and thoroughly tested—as I would not for a moment foist on the public a theoretical and untried instrument; moreover, the form was that which you yourself were convinced, at the time of publication, a hook should assume. The firm which produced the implement for me made more than one pattern of the hook, the best only being retained. A rejected pattern proved incontestibly that both Mr. Keene's and Mr. Pennell's ideas in relation to the shank were incorrect. The latter gentleman advocates the thickening of the main bend in order to secure rigidity. In my first hooks this plan was adopted; but the consequent attenuation of the end of the shank resulted in such a flexibility of the whole hook that in small trout flies the advantages of a good inflection of barb piece were annihilated; so as to make the hooks, under pressure on a bony or cartilaginous jaw, assume an ordinary Limerick or other allied form. As the result of a series of experiments on bodies of varying hardness, on the jaws of trout uncaught and of those which had already been brought to shore, I proved conclusively that the thickness of the wire from the end of the shank to the root of the barb piece should be, for all practical purposes, the same throughout its whole extent in a hook of even an approximately correct bend. A very trifling thinning of the end, however, I allowed at the head of the shank, more as a matter of convenience in relation to the tying of gut and fly-making than for any other cause. And now, turning to the minor bend at the base of the barb piece, I have only to remark that in a theoretically perfect and rigid hook there would be no strain whatever at this point, as Mr. Keene alleges; there would be no curve, but a pure, mathematical angle. On striking a fish a kind of jar would take place; but no strain that is a result of lateral leverage; yet, as the materials of hooks cannot be obtained possessing perfect rigidity, the inventor has to modify his machine in accordance with the properties of the things which he has

at hand. On this account we find there is always a certain amount of leverage or strain, at the minor bend under the influence of pressure; even after we have imparted to a hook an inflection of barb-piece and point, so as to make the line of impact and line of force identical. So much is this the case, that I have had good sport with a set of hooks at which the line of impact or inflection, when produced, struck the shank at a point one third of the way down its length; whilst the mere fact of such a feat simply shows how ridiculous old ideas relating to inflection and impact have always been. The hooks last named were some which had been manufactured with the lines of impact and force identical, but which in some strange way became much more inflected in the process of tempering. In practical working we discover that the minor bend cannot efficiently be replaced by the typical angle of Euclid; as neither glass nor wire retain their perfect strength when doubled, even in a heated state, too suddenly on themselves; besides this, the exact degree of heat for such a delicate operation is difficult to attain.

Here, then, it is found that a bend must be substituted for the angle, yet an exceedingly slight curve, which differs little from an absolute angle; is all that is needed to obviate entirely the brittleness which otherwise would be produced by bending. The cases of fracture, to which Mr. Keene alludes, at the root of the barb piece, usually occur owing to three defects: 1st, too great efflection; 2nd, substitution of an angle for a minute curve; and 3rd, improper tempering or bad material.

The patterns of hooks which I have already mentioned as becoming too much inflected during the process of tempering, were also a good, but in the case of my agents, a rare instance of bad metal; the maker, however, told me that manufacturers are wholly at the mercy of the firms that supply the wire, the quality of which cannot be thoroughly ascertained until after the hooks are made. From the foregoing reasons it may be seen that any thickening of the minor bend is wholly unnecessary; and like the corresponding enlargement of the great bend in the Pennell hook, only causes the fly to float or sink in an improper position in the water. The fragile nature of the wire at the root of the barb and point, is due to other causes, being mainly the fault of bad workman-ship. I wish Mr. Keene joy in the employment of his bayonet points, and deflected, or rather reflected, barbs. I can simply record that, in the first case, I had far rather have been without the hooks than with them, had not some good flies been dressed thereon; whilst, in the case of the barbs, I have always found the form insufferable; have only been too glad to replace them in their proper position; and, in case they broke off in the latter operation, to employ new flies; as experience has amply proved that a hook without a barb is a worthless machine when barbed steel is to be had. For though small fish may occasionally be caught fairly with a simple pointed hook, when they can be transferred to land at once, without playing, or sometimes when the line can be kept uniformly tight, still no sane man could believe a barbless hook to be in any way favourably comparable with an orthodox pattern; besides this, one of the great objects in the hook, which I invented years ago, and which I was the first to prove, both theoretically and practically, to be the form that hooks should actually assume—not merely as a subsequent shadowing forth, when others dared not grapple with the difficulty—is the assumption of a shape in which the barb-piece and barb are least obtrusive, whilst more effective in obtaining and retaining their hold on the fish.

Mr. Keene is again wrong in relation to Pennell's hook, which is not built on the Limerick principle—a principle that the latter gentleman says he abominates—but is merely a Kendal sneck-bend, somewhat thickened at the main curve, a trifle more inflected, yet without the lateral deflection.

I await the results of Mr. Keene's researches, which have yet to be developed, and thank your contributor for his magnanimous forecast of what his opinions will be, which lead him to adopt my views, and consequently patterns, almost in their entirety—even to the discarding of less inflected hooks, such as the "Crystal" and Pennell varieties; and for so kindly appropriating them as his own—a thing which indeed I might have expected, as my hook was a free gift to anglers, and any one might therefore think every thing connected with it, his own special property. I must remind you, Mr. Editor, that I have another hook, built on exactly the same principle as the first, but slightly modified in one respect, which I also intend to give to the brotherhood; and which, likewise, has had some years of practical work, though only intended for fine fishing for brook trout. To this, in a former article, I once made a passing allusion; and one of your printers was so good as to add the word "patent," which I know was not in my manuscript when I sent it. As this implement is not patent, Mr. Keene may perhaps inform us that—although, like its compeers, it has for long been in private circulation amongst my own angling friends—he shadowed forth the design in days gone by. Very well, I wish you luck with your designs, Mr. Contributor; but they both are my inventions.

Turning now to another subject, I have to report the capture of a lake bream in the Yere, a little above Ripon. The fish was shot by a rifle, and subsequently handed to me, as curator, for exhibition and preservation. Bream are very rare in this section of the Yere; and as there is such a close resemblance between the lake and white varieties, I give the detailed characteristics of the fish in my possession:—

Abramis Brama.

Body, extreme length, 24 inches; length to fork of tail, 20½ inches; depth, 8½ inches; width, 2½ inches; girth, 17½ inches; weight, 5½ lb.

Head, length to rear of opercular valve, 5 inches; depth at nape of neck, 3½ inches; girth at nape of neck, 9½ inches.

Scales of lateral line reaching a width of 1 to ¾ of an inch.

Nostrils, each with double apertures, and transverse groove in front, just above the lip.

Head small; opercular arch rounded with air-tight branchial valve.

Branchiae, three pairs, and arches provided internally with semi-cartilaginous flexible processes or branchial fringes.

Mouth small, toothless; lower lip shorter, above which a groove runs to an inch behind the buccal orifice; lower lip curved upwards as a tubercle internally.

Colour, generally a rather dark or silver grey, with a slight tinge of yellow. Body whiter below the lateral line than above. Upper aspect of head olive green; the whole of which was somewhat yellower than the rest of the body. Bright yellow spot on left pre-operculum. Irids yellow.

Form, as far as posterior extremity of anal fin, oval; vertically depressed.

Lateral line of 57 scales, 12 above and 8 below. Couch gives much fewer in his plates both of lake and white bream.

Pectoral fin, 17 rays; lower border crescentic; second and third rays longest, not reaching to the ventrals.

Dorsal fin, 11 rays; last ray double and of same length as first, which is rather less than half the length of second. Anterior root much behind that of ventral, and only very slightly in advance of vent; second and third rays longest.

Ventral fin, 9 rays,
Anal fin, 27 rays;
Yarrell mentions
to 24 or 25.
Caudal fin, 19 rays
loped supplement
Couch gives 17 as
Colour of fins gener-
lightest in hue; t
the number, with

[We remember to consider the point of objections. Does Semmer water near

SIR,—Will you moreland for fell be

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HAI
SIR,—Believing advancement of an which I hope will prepared silk braid bear all criticism f lashes or casts are gut. The great se dace, in fine waters you may take a di with gut, in the I and why?—because where is this stron occasionally do co cations for it than adept) to use hair stoncs.

I have quoted reason I give tha prepared silk braid been able to obta a good plaited ha line for buoyancy flies to advantage with hair, can on thoroughly agree of May 20; I tha letter on this sub good, sound prac lightness, and ad difficulty in castin them to use not c and as they prog they will devise. Hair," signed " adds, justly, free of throwing, dura The great and should fall and

[Having fished little knowledge ever grown, and or twisted; we c

HOW TH

SIR,—I have ING GAZETTE, a We think yo for the length and in "casting reel.—We are, May 30, 1882.

"Mark Ant o In reply to yo "fish slime," b memorandum, v I remember, l composed princ water fish), an About this ti nearly every cas skin, which gre acute pain. You are at li posed to make, article for you.— Chemical Lab 29th M

SIR,—I shall some worms, su 354, Moseley

states of the water, for what exact reason cannot be decidedly stated; but it has, no doubt, something to do with visibility, naturality, and experience, all combined. A bright orange-red hackle and a black palmer have been found very killing in a heavy rolling freshet. Now both of these colours are the two hues most distinctly visible in such a water; but not only this, there are, during such a flood, a great number of caterpillars red and black, beetles red, brown and black, but especially black, yet many red or sometimes brown, for either of which the reddish hackle and palmer may, in the discoloured water, be easily mistaken; the fish feeding boldly when the river is heavy and being equally ready for a cow-dung fly, a beetle, or a caterpillar.

Thus experience declares these two colours are good, and many anglers will almost swear by the red and black palmers, seldom fishing except in this state of water, and doing little at any other time with other flies. For deep pools or lakes, a bright yellow or orange fly has been much recommended; and it is in deep pools, under bushes or nettle-clad banks, that the red palmer is often very killing, the hairy caterpillar, red or red and black, dropping naturally in such places into the water. The greendrake, of a greenish yellow colour, is often killing in lakes and deep waters elsewhere. It is a natural fly of large size and easily distinguished colour, hence of great visibility.

The stone fly may likewise be used in lakes with success, and also in heavy, rough streams in strong rivers; it also is of large size, and visible in water where smaller insects are overlooked. The sand or sedge fly, a large reddish brown or yellow insect, is easily discernible, and so has been found a killer in deep waters generally. The ruddy variety of the whirling dun is a fly of moderate size, bright colour, and clear delineation, and is one of the very best killers in all waters, and in part owes its great killing power to its being easily mistaken for two of the best flies on the angler's list, namely, the yellow and blue duns. For low water small pale and iron-blue duns or hackles on minute hooks, and the small grey mottled mallard beetle, are the most natural and deadly baits. In cold windy weather the blue dun, whirling dun, and March brown, or flies closely resembling the latter, are most efficacious. In warm windy weather the cow-dung, alder and oak flies, bluebottle, and hawthorn fly are found upon the water. In the evening, small light duns, brought into life by the heat of the day, such as the pale evening dun, are plentiful in summer. During a sudden shower the spinners are peculiarly fatal, whilst at twilight anything in the shape of a fly is greedily devoured. It has generally been owned by anglers of all shades—Naturalists, Formalists, Colourists, &c.—with a certain feeling of haziness and hesitation, that even if trout do mistake the artificial lure for an insect, or whatever their ideas may be on the subject, one thing at least is certain: it is, at any rate, undoubted that salmon do not make any mistake when they endeavour to swallow the gaudy, glittering, many-coloured lure specially contrived for their peculiar advantage; for few have been audacious enough to presume that the structure is meant for the copy of any insect. The long-bodied, sparsely-winged and hackled salmon lures have not inaptly been compared to the huge and attenuated dragon fly; some of the bushy lures may have almost as close a resemblance to humming birds. Dragon flies, assuredly, have an aquatic origin; but with how many humming birds can a young salmon have met? Disbelieving the bird theory, others have no less presumptuously declared that the bait resembles nothing in heaven above, nor in the earth beneath, nor in the water under the earth; this being, no doubt, the reason of the salmon's adoration. Yet stop; rush not so headlong to a rash conclusion; but before so bluntly denouncing the structure as lifelike, but still resembling nothing living, wait till your knowledge is a little more complete. Let it be admitted that your experience of earth and air is not utterly despicable, but pause awhile. The master of the art will not yield you any admission further. You know the depths of ocean, do you? You have followed the young salmon to ocean's murky depths, and are well aware of all the glittering, many-coloured denizens of the deep? Tush, it is not so! Away with you! What know you of the sea's dark mysteries, or of the sparkling lights of its dim remote sub-aerial halls? You are beside yourself if you say, "Nothing in the sea!" Walk into the museum of the Naturalist, and a few of those many-hued and dimly-sparkling candles of ocean's inmost rocks and caverns may be seen. An animal, the very size of your gaudy silver and gold, purple, blue, and green, your many-tinted salmon lure, with moving, glittering, many-coloured scales and hairs planted all over its lovely lustrous form, may there be seen; the namesake of the Queen of Love and Beauty, the lovely Aphrodité. Here is your gaudy salmon lure, such as the Britannia and Undine, clad in regal purple, the long-lost reminiscences of which are briefly re-awakened in fresh water to gladden the triumphant angler's heart. But are not other iridescent forms found in the watery depths? Rich-hued actinæ, medusoids, and polyzoids of every size and shape and countless colours. Such myriads, indeed, that it were a feat

impossible for even an aged salmon to remember each after an absence in fresh water? So numberless that anything of many colours, actively moving, and of bulk like that of ocean prototypes, has such magnetic influence that the huge fish is drawn towards it, and bristling jaws enclose a rare, and, for them, too fell deception.

Thoughts on the general theory of flies naturally lead to the attentive study of the numberless varieties of insects on which trout feed most voraciously. It is as well to review the natural history of these creatures alone, and not mingle the two phases of the case together. These subjects at last involve the fly-fisher in the abstruse and practical system of manœuvring elsewhere discussed, including the most important operations in the whole art; perfection or consummate deftness in which stamps the owner as a master of the pastime. Before the old angler I need hardly demur in placing at such length, and disposing as my own thoughts dictate, so many pithy points. The goal I have sought to reach is, on one hand, truth; good craftsmanship on the other; and it is for the old practitioner to judge if I have conned the art aright. Upon the young fly-fisher I must urge that, though the subject may appear tedious at the first glance, it is worthy of much consideration; and is, as laid forth by me, whether rightly or wrongly, the result of long years of pleasant labour by the river side in many countries; moreover, it is by toil proficiency is attained. We cannot all be born masters, though we may inherit a love for the art. Therefore, follow up unceasingly all the best maxims by the banks of the stream; and perhaps, in time, you may croak more loudly than

THE RAVEN.

BLANK DAYS.

By J. P. WHEELDON.

I MET a very good friend of mine the other day, whilst mooning meditatively through St. Paul's Church Yard; and being an ardent gossip, he instantly buttonholed me. If I could have shirked him decently, I would assuredly have done so; for, apart from the fact, that he thinks no sooner is one "Scotch cold" swallowed, than it is an immediate signal for filling the tumblers afresh, and emptying them again as speedily as possible, but he is an inveterate and painful stammerer. Therefore with a frame of iron and a stomach capable of sustaining any number of liquid assaults of any known quantity, quality, and strength, he can very soon settle me; while his longing for gossip, and particularly fishy gossip, is as unbounded as his hospitality and his capacity for swallowing whiskey.

"My-de-de-did-dear fuf-fuf-fuf-friend," he at last sputtered out—"How are you-an-an-an-an-cuk-cuk-cuk-come and have-a-a-whiskey." In vain did I assure him—which, by the bye, was an utterly unnecessary untruth—that I had just had one. "All the more reason," he instantly blurted out, "why you sh-sh-sh-should have another." I pleaded liver next, and his immediate reply was that, "Whiskey, so long-long as you take e-e-e-nuff of it, is the fuf-fuf-finest med'cine for liver in the whole bl-bloo-blooming world, my boy." After that I hauled down my fighting flag and surrendered; and the very first question that my chum put to me, after nodding over the edge of the tumbler and moving it slowly across his upper lip, and just under his nose in a very mysterious manner—motions which may either be a sign of Freemasonry or Fenianism, and I'm sure I don't care which—was this, "Why," said he, "how is it that in every blessed article you write, old fuf-fuf-fellow, you're always catching fish and nev-nev-never have any bl-bl-blanks."

Blanks! Good heavens above, why I've perfectly revelled in blanks in my time, and I doubt not that every fisherman that has ever handled a rod has had his full share into the bargain, if he were only honest enough to admit it. The marvellous fisherman—that man who is always doing something to rouse the bile or enthusiasm, as the case may be, of his many friends—is the man who has ample time, money, and opportunity at hand. That is the stuff of which your "crack" is made, as a rule; and I fear me sometimes, that the item "money," plays no inconsiderable part in the size and multiplicity of his bags. This gentleman probably goes out day after day, week after week, and his blanks are kept carefully in the background. The captures only—and in some cases they are the result of commercial speculation—come to the surface, and the world lifting up its hand says, "What a wonder he must be." I know sundry men whose names hardly ever come to the front, and I know others whose names literally coruscate as bright particular stars in the piscatorial firmament. I should much like to have a shy at one or other of the stars, nominating a hole-and-corner man as my representative, and somehow fancy that in an all-round game I should have a bit in hand. Fancy! it isn't fancy, I am certain of it.

Can I, say you, call to mind a blank or two, as a refreshing difference to papers which may frequently tell a reverse tale? I

can that. Tons of trouble and beating private park, through runs. I had as a rod; and I think something like five of wire, and scour. The principal part of a delightful day was clothed, each oak, round the hyacinths, thick in and amongst w in the moist cool dell to reach the careful, owing to which trailed over foot in some of cropper and a fine nose. At the he which the current and the water fa and then going centre of the pool life, in the place soon lost in the

When I first s line in its solemn covers on the op followed the ke pushing through we had struck th Of course I loo a bridge of any and by the powe "Tommy Splor solemn secluded the sluice. "A in an unconcern man, by the by but there's shus I inquiringly, " "And it's now y backs, peerch y of other sorts w effer." They'll carp, and I'll n try for them. it; and now, t the family awa plenty of capita every possible

It looked ab rapidly, or buil the close of a c worms up to th We left them th of the following leger. Breakfast shadow of a bite after winding u noble oak prep of eggs and ba and when we g the pool from literally alive were one or tw still. Dinner light died out, tinct, bats to s cially in the sa too dark to see wrong. I wel shouted to us result, at the e

Many pipes night; and ma issue of the day properly, and mixture, that v friend; but we some big bolu could have been one like t westerly wind caused the asp

Ventral fin, 9 rays, reaching vent; second ray longest.
Anal fin, 27 rays; anterior border arcuate; third and fourth rays longest.
 Yarrell mentions this fin as containing 27 rays, but Couch limits the number to 24 or 25.
Caudal fin, 19 rays (by 10), with five successively smaller, imperfectly developed supplementary rays supporting each border, making 29 rays in all. Couch gives 17 as the number.
Colour of fins generally dusky to a bluish grey, the pectorals being much the lightest in hue; the dorsal and caudal rather dark, and the anal the darkest of the number, with a decidedly deep bluish or smoky grey shade.—I am, &c.,
 R. BALDERSTON.
 Curator and Librarian of the Ripon Naturalists' Club and Scientific Association.

[We remember Mr. Balderston's hook, and like the shape very much, but consider the point should have the side twist, in spite of Mr. B.'s theoretical objections. Does Mr. B. know what kind of bream it is which so abounds in Semmer water near Hawes? This lake runs into the Yore.—ED.]

FELL BECK FISHING.

SIR,—Will you kindly tell me, in your next issue, the best place in Westmoreland for fell beck fishing and the best place to stop at?—I am, &c.,
 FISHERMAN.

[Perhaps our correspondent who wrote about the Fell Becks will answer this, although "Fisherman" might gather from that article a good idea or two as to where to go.—ED.]

HAIR AND GUT CASTS, FLY LINES, &c.

SIR,—Believing that your columns are ever open for the furtherance and advancement of angling in all its branches, I will lay a comparison before you, which I hope will convince you of the superiority of hair and silk fly line to prepared silk braided. In the first place, we will take hair and gut casts. I will bear all criticism from my brother anglers, if I am wrong, when I say that hair lashes or casts are far superior (providing you can obtain strong hair) to the finest gut. The great secret of success in fly-fishing for trout and grayling, and even dace, in fine waters. It always was, and always will be, an acknowledged fact that you may take a dish of fish with hair, when you might throw and cast in vain with gut, in the Derbyshire and other extreme fine waters, with the same flies, and why?—because of its lightness and buoyancy. But here is an obstacle—where is this strong hair to be obtained? This is the only difficulty. We occasionally do come across this very rare article, and then we have more applications for it than we can supply. I must say he must be a skilful angler (an adept) to use hair; plenty of space to kill his fish, no bushes, stakes, piles, or stones.

I have quoted the above comparison for the simple fact of explaining the reason I give that hair and silk plaited and tapered fly-lines are superior to prepared silk braided lines, or any other yet introduced. Of late years we have been able to obtain very fine gut, but to use this to advantage we must have a good plaited hair trace, collar or point, or a well-made hair and silk plaited line for buoyancy and lightness on the water, to depend on using the dropper flies to advantage. Those who use prepared silk, or other lines than those mixed with hair, can only depend in a great measure on the point fly, or stretcher. I thoroughly agree with the writer who signs himself "Raven," in your number of May 20; I thank him very much. I must say a more able and accomplished letter on this subject (I should say a greater authority) I do not wish to quote; good, sound practical experience. You see, he adds, the great requisition is lightness; and advocates hair and silk, and states that some anglers have a difficulty in casting the fine hair and silk line. In this instance I would advise them to use not quite so fine a tapered line, it will still lie light on the water, and as they progress in the manipulation or casting the fly, the finer the line they will devise. I see again in the same number, May 20, an article "Gut and Hair," signed "Creel," a full substantiation of my words—lightness, &c.; and adds, justly, freedom from entangling itself, for its becoming straight in the act of throwing, durability, &c.

The great and main object is, when casting a long line on the surface that it should fall and lie light, and not drag through the water.—I am, &c.,

TROUT.

[Having fished the Derbyshire streams for fifteen years, we may claim some little knowledge of them, and will back our drawn gut collar against any hair ever grown, and our plaited waterproofed silk against any silk hair ever plaited or twisted; we cannot say more than this.—ED.]

HOW THE CASTS WERE MEASURED AT THE "F. G." TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—I have noticed query No. 3, by M. B., in last Saturday's FISHING GAZETTE, and have seen Mr. J. P. Wheeldon to-day about it.

We think your correspondent M. B. has mixed up two different things, for the length of cast from a fly-rod should be from point or top of rod to fly; and in "casting from the reel" the length of line should be measured from the reel.—We are, &c.,
 A. G. JARDINE.
 J. P. WHEELDON.
 May 30, 1882.

FISH SLIME.

"Mark Antony" sends us the following for publication:—

In reply to your note, I did some years ago make an examination of some "fish slime," but at the present moment I am unable to find my laboratory memorandum, where I recorded the results.

I remember, however, that I found a viscous or glutinous adhesive substance, composed principally of carbonate of lime, and in some cases (especially in salt-water fish), an additional element of chloride of sodium.

About this time I met the late Mr. Frank Buckland, and he told me that in nearly every case, especially in that of the eel (*anguilla*)—this slime was a true skin, which greatly protected it from cold, and its removal caused the most acute pain.

You are at liberty to incorporate this in any communication you may feel disposed to make, and in the event of disopinion I will exhaust the subject in an article for you.—I am, &c.,
 J. V. T.
 Chemical Laboratory, 1, Carlyle Square, Chelsea, S.W.,
 29th May, 1882.

WORMS WANTED.

SIR,—I shall be glad if any of your readers could tell me where I could buy some worms, such as brandling and small red-worms, in quantities.—I am, &c.,
 W. J. EVANS.
 354, Moseley Place, Birmingham.

FISHING AT SANDOWN.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers kindly tell me if there is any good sea-fishing at Sandown, Isle of Wight; and, if so, what tackle one should take.—I am, &c.,
 W. R. WEST.
 May 31.

SHREWSBURY SEVERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A SPECIAL meeting of members of this society was held on Tuesday week at the Club-house, 59, Mardol, Shrewsbury. The chair was taken by Alderman Groves, and amongst others present were—James Watson, Esq. (Berwick), the Rev. E. Myers, Councillor J. Groves, Messrs. Hawley Edwards, C. Matthews, F. Jackson, H. Smith, W. A. Smith, R. Ellis, sen., J. Woodfin, Milner, R. O. Jones, Wycherley, Morris, Geo. Groves, Fred H. Morgan, hon. sec., &c.

The Chairman said as this meeting had been called in the interests of the public at large, and not for a particular class, he had readily consented to take the chair. He warmly supported the steps that had been taken by the society to preserve the sport in the river within the limits of the borough, in the interest of the holders of rod and line licenses. It was a well-known fact that gentlemen would come to Shrewsbury during the season if anything like sport could be secured for them. It was a matter for regret to see so many of the fry of salmon hawked about, which had manifestly been caught by net.

Mr. Hawley Edwards said, as they knew, he presented the memorial from this society to the Board of Conservators at their last meeting, and he thought they would all be satisfied at the manner in which it had been received. The Board were quite willing to co-operate with any steps the Corporation might wish to take within the immediate vicinity of the borough; that being so, they had advanced one step in the right direction. There were two courses open to the Association: one was by getting the Corporation to take the matter up and support an Act of Parliament vesting in them the entire control of the river within the borough. If that were done there was no doubt that the Board of Conservators would support the Corporation of Shrewsbury in their application. The only difficulty with which that course might be met was that Parliament might say, "You are asking us to deprive persons within the borough of the right of fishing with nets." His answer to that would be, in the first place, that no person had a right to fish in the river without the consent of the riparian owners, if they chose to exercise their rights. Therefore, assuming that the riparian owners in the borough would be willing to support the Corporation if an Act conferred upon them the entire control of the river within the borough, that difficulty would be got rid of. The other matter was a question of expense, upon which he was not in a position to give much information, because he did not know what an Act of Parliament would cost. The preliminary steps might be taken by the Corporation, and they might then ask that some guarantee should be given to them in that direction. There was another course open to the association, and one which, he took it, would oust the Board of Conservators entirely so far as trout and coarse fishing was concerned, and that followed from a decision which had recently been given in one of the superior Courts as to the rights of the riparian owners as to fishing in a stream. If the riparian owners would agree to lease the fishing, the whole question of an Act of Parliament might be got rid of, and the owners could lease the right of fishing to the Corporation or any other body. At present, the granting of a license by the Board of Conservators did not give the holder of such license a legal right to fish unless with the consent of the riparian owners.

These observations led to much conversation as to what would be the best plan to pursue, in the course of which Mr. Watson thought it would be well to conciliate the riparian owners before they went for an Act of Parliament.

Rev. E. Myers thought that the practice of allowing ducks on the river was the cause of the destruction of thousands of young fish and myriads of spawn.

The Chairman replied: I'm afraid you could not stop that if the owners claimed the right of navigation.

Mr. Hawley Edwards stated that even now holders of licenses for netting salmon could be prevented fishing by owners of land adjoining the stream on either side; and that owners on either side had a legal claim to the centre of the stream, with a right to pass over it just the same as in the case of a highway.

After further conversation, the following resolution was agreed to:—"That the following gentlemen form a committee, namely, Messrs. Watson, Groves, Morris, Wycherley, Edwards, Myers, Ellis, and the secretary, for the purpose of ascertaining from the riparian owners within the borough their willingness or otherwise to grant to the Corporation of Shrewsbury, or a body of trustees, the right of fishing for a term of years so far as their respective lands extend, keeping in view their existing rights; and also, if necessary, to draw up a memorial to the Corporation if they entertain the matter."

The following letter, addressed to the secretary of the society, was read from Mr. Willis-Bund:—

"Dear Sir,—I am much obliged to yourselves and the Shrewsbury anglers for the kind appreciation of what the board did at their last meeting. I am sure that the board will always be only too happy to co-operate with the anglers in preserving the fish and promoting true sport. I wrote to the Mayor of Shrewsbury to say that we must apply to Parliament to give us power to make regulations as to coarse fish, our present power extending over salmon only; and the town clerk replies that the matter shall be attended to. Meanwhile, I trust your Society will do their best to promote action by the town council in the matter.—Yours faithfully,
 J. WILLIS-BUND."

Thames (Hampton).

Water clear, weather stormy, and Thursday gale of wind. Barbel commencing to feed. T. Wheeler, fishing with different gentlemen, averaged six barbel and a few dozen roach and dace per day. Best bait for barbel, worms; they do not seem to take clay ball at all kindly. Bank fishermen have done fairly with the roach, paste fishing. Below the weir (Moulsey) Davis and J. Smith have had average catches of barbel, and some large roach, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lb. each, with cheese paste.—E. SWAN.

Thames (Monkey Island Hotel).

Gudgeon are feeding well, getting twenty and twenty-five dozen a day and a few good perch. The barbel are feeding very badly; what one do get are very small. Out with Mr. J. Knecht to-day, (Wednesday), got a few small barbel, one jack, 8 lb., one 2 lb., and lost a very fine fish in the weeds. We want a little rain now, and we should get some good all-round fishing.—R. PLUMMER.

Thames (Shepperton).

Mr. M. H. Blarney, whose piscatorial exploits in this portion of the Thames have become proverbial, has this week been again distinguishing himself. On Monday and Tuesday last, attended by Herbert Kerr, he caught something like 120 lb. weight of barbel and bream, the result being achieved from two causes—first in having the swim well baited and then by first-rate skill and perseverance—in both of these Mr. Blarney possess undoubted pre-eminence.—H.

Thames (Staines).

There was a time when Staines was the most popular fishing ground in the Lower Thames, and from the recent returns of angling in that locality it would appear its former prestige is being again developed. During the last week Mr. Curie Banfield, of the Swan Hotel, has had two days' fishing; on the first day he got seventeen good fish, the largest 4 lb. 3 oz.; and the second day nine nice fish, the largest 4 lb., with a supplement of one perch and four dozen of roach; another day amongst the barbel, when he got ten fish weighing 40 lb., the largest 6 lb. 3 oz.; and another day amongst the lively gudgeon, who give him some excellent sport as a reminder of former glorious days, with one rod he took thirty-six dozen of gudgeon and eight perch. Mr. Banfield was attended by John Keene senior, whose address is at the hostelry, of which Mr. Banfield has become the piscatorial proprietor.—H.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, N.W.; river in good condition, and the strong winds have passed over which caused us an amount of trouble on Thursday, it being almost impossible to fix a punt. I have had twenty-one punts out during the week and every night as the takes are brought in they improve both in size and quantity. Spong, one day with Co. Adcock, of Putney, took 11 doz. good fish; one day with Mr. Wiggins, of Hounslow, 6 doz. and two barbel; one day with Mr. Walker, Old Kent Road, 7 doz. in four hours. Our Joe, with Mr. Dawson, 8 doz. and 2 barbel, one day; and with Mr. Walker 6 doz. and 2 barbel, one day. Captain Wilton, 5 doz. of good fish. Dick Moffat and Farmer have both had good takes. My customers will find it a great advantage by wiring or writing in advance, as the punt is ready fixed when they arrive, the swim well baited and the rods ready to be used at once.

N.B.—Pert. Hamerton and George Coxen are not in my employ now.—ALFRED PERRIN, Two Sawyers.

Trent (Newark).

The water has been in fairish condition most of the week, but the weather has been against successful and comfortable angling, heavy winds and frequent showers having been the order of the day. Some fairish catches of roach have been had during the latter part of last week, malt and creed wheat having been the most successful lure. Mr. T. Lee caught on one day with malt 66 roach, averaging 11 oz. each, and on the next day 45, showing an average of over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each fish. Mr. J. Chatterton had also a good bag of roach with malt, and several other catches of those fish have also come under my notice. One of our local anglers had a splendid roach, taken with wasp grub, weighing 1 lb. 9 oz. I saw a bream taken on Tuesday with worm that weighed nearly 5 lb., a splendidly-shaped fish. A few barbel have also come under my notice, but a good catch of those fish I have not seen as yet. Chub are still taking the wasp grub; one bag I saw contained a nice fish. We have had some frequent and heavy showers most of this week, but the water has not altered much as yet; but probably we shall have a few inches extra water, but it is still in capital condition for general angling.—THE TRENT OTTER.

P.S.—A few odd pike have also been taken, but nothing of any great weight.

Tweed and Teviot.

Salmon angling in the river and its tributaries is at present destitute of the excitement which gives it its charm, the captures being few and far between. This state of affairs is owing chiefly, if not exclusively, to the foul and low state of the streams, and unless a flood speedily takes place the end of the present season will prove a complete blank. On the Sprouston water on Monday, Mr. Charles Keress captured one salmon, and on Tuesday he was again successful in securing a grilse to his rod. The few fish that are being caught are for the most part light weights. Trout fishing in the evening may now be regarded as being over for the season, and day fishing will prove very uneventful until a flood occurs. The reports from the netting stations in the tidal parts of the river continue to be very discouraging. These fishings have now less than a month to run, and the improvement which should take place in the takes of salmon and grilse at this season has not yet been experienced. The scarcity of the latter fish has been the remarkable feature of the season, just as their abundance was the principal characteristic last year. This circumstance does not augur well for the prosperity of the fishings during the ensuing year, because it is feared that the existing scarcity of grilse will have the effect of causing a dearth of salmon next year. In contrast with the state of matters on the Tweed, some extraordinary catches of salmon have been obtained on the Tyne, it being reported that fishers on that river have had a golden harvest of late, a number of old veterans having no recollection of salmon having been so plentiful in their experience.—MAX WHEEL.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

There has been several flushes of peat-coloured water during the week but the fish have risen very badly at fly, and although a great number of bottom fishers have been out with both maggot and wasp grub their takes have been far from satisfactory. I heard that a perch was taken in a mill dam near Rawdon weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., but did not see it myself; if the report is correct it is a heavy weight for this district. Weather cold, stormy, and inclined for rain.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

Wye and Derwent.

The past week has been a very bad one for angling. Very few fish have been killed with either top or bottom, owing to continual flushes coming down the river, and the wind being so very boisterous at times. Last Tuesday night we had a very great deal of heavy rain fall all over Derbyshire, which caused both rivers to have nice little flushes on them. To-day (Thursday) a very fair quantity of both trout and grayling have been killed, chiefly off the Darley Dale Club waters, with wasp grubs and gentles. Last Saturday I went down to Whatstandwell to wait on one of the London leading gunmakers for a day's bottom fishing amongst coarse fish, on strictly preserved water, where there is any quantity of fish. We fished for something like seven hours, and only got three bites the whole of the time, and killed two fish—one roach and one grayling. We had any quantity of baits, viz. wasp grubs, gentles, and worms; besides, the places had been ground baited the night before, so it was quite evident that the fish were decidedly off the feed. I don't know that I ever knew such a thing to occur before in my whole experience. The river was in good condition till about six o'clock in the evening, when a nasty porter-coloured water came down the Derwent from the heavy rain which had fallen in the woodlands. No doubt the fish were waiting for this water coming down before they began to feed. Eels have been running well lately. There has been several killed by anglers bottom fishing with wasp grubs—one of 3 lb. 6 oz., and a number of smaller ones. Both the Wye and Derwent ought to be in first-class condition for fly-fishing by Monday, if no more rain falls. Bumbles and little red, ribbed with gold twist, and black gnat, are killers for either rivers.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. BRATLEY, Queen's Park.—In our article on roach fishing you will find some places near Norwich mentioned that will just suit you, and for bream you should try the Yare at Cantly and Reedham (good inns at both places); or else go to Ormesby Broad, nine miles from Yarmouth by rail and a walk of a mile or so.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

REPLY TO R. B. MARSTON, ESQ., EDITOR OF THE "FISHING GAZETTE."

SIR,—The editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, desirous of cutting the Gordian knot, has practically accepted a challenge such as "Herne the Hunter" defiantly threw at him, though he takes no notice of that challenge, and evidently claims the honour of the initiative. It happens that I am the person named as the individual challenged, so that it is now incumbent upon me to reply. In the first place, I must state that about nineteen months ago I invited Mr. Marston to fish with me for a week in the rivers over which I was once conservator; that twice at least this year I have expressed the wish by letter to this gentleman that he would or could fish with me, in order that I might show him what could be done with the tackle he considers good for nothing. Of none of these letters and invitations has Mr. Marston taken any notice. In the next place, the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE was challenged by "Herne the Hunter" to mortal combat, and the editor took no notice of the challenge, and refused to publish it in his columns, though I am aware it was sent to him as a registered letter, as have my letters for the last eight months or more. These refusals I take as definite; and, on this account, if I now accept any engagement of the kind, I consider that, as all my overtures have been ignored, it is my place to stipulate conditions, and that, if no agreement be effected, Mr. Marston's previous refusal throws the onus of failure on himself.

In the first place, then, we have to picture Walton and Cotton having a fishing match. Gracious shades of old anglers! In the next, we must consider the work Mr. Marston has set before him: all is pleasant if he be beaten by me; he is, so he says, beaten by a "master of the art," and can account for defeat in this manner, whilst adding, in relation to hair and silk lines, &c., hair and gut, "of course, such a match is no test of their real value." This being the case, I for my part have nothing to gain, but all to lose, if defeated; for there is no doubt, in that case, the matter would be considered settled. This is the case as taken from a plain, ordinary point of view; but, from my own, I may tell Mr. Marston that I will not fish him on even terms; that, if I have to fish, the work I set down is much more formidable. I will engage in nothing less than a week's flood fishing, and a similar term for dead low water in streams of different descriptions; that, in this case, for every two fish he shall catch in flood, I must take three, and for every two at dead low water, I must get four, giving on both descriptions of water a proportion of four to seven; but, considering that perhaps Mr. Marston may be superior to his brother fishermen, I would make it a condition that during the fourteen days' fishing I must get three for every two trout caught by him (6—4), all fish to count, and the average weight of each of my fish must exceed that of his also; the flood-fishing to be next Easter, and the low-water fishing in the following July, as for such an unequal contest I would have to make some preparation in several respects. But how even in the time named a verdict on rods, lines, gut, hair, hooks, striking, and personal craftsmanship is to be made, I am at a loss to understand, for every one of these is a debatable point. I omit long casting—it is worthless. The general conditions I have named; there will be plenty of time for the special. Finally, I must advance one preliminary condition—That, as Mr. Marston has ignored my previous challenges, he is now bound to refute the general points which bear on this matter, and which I shall forward to him in printed form. In this statement no difference in personal craftsmanship can affect the question so long as it is granted that the tackle advocated by both partisans can be used. If Mr. Marston cannot overthrow the facts which I shall put into his hands, and which can be tested by anyone, I am certainly no longer bound to engage in what in that case would be a useless and empty contest; but if Mr. Marston can disprove the truth of my position, then I suppose it will remain for me to beat him, if I can, by the aid of superior craftsmanship alone on the battle-field.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT R. BALDERSTON.

[On receipt of the above letter we wrote to Mr. Balderston apologising for not having inserted the letter of his which follows this (in a footnote to that letter we have given the reason for its non appearance before). We also agreed to give him the honour of being the first to challenge, as that is a point we care nothing about. We declined absolutely to meet him on any other than a perfectly equal footing as regards the fish to be caught by each angler. Finally we said all we could to get him to arrange

a trial on the river now; and not put it off to next year. We print his reply, received within a few minutes of going to press, and will only say that if we can possibly arrange it we will accept his own conditions, so that there may be no reason for putting off the match. Any fly fishing reader of Mr. Balderston's letter must agree with us that the chance of fishing in his company and seeing a display of the skill he mentions will be worth giving almost anything for. If we can arrange to get away from town a fortnight earlier than we intended we will have much pleasure in fishing a private match with Mr. Balderston. Perhaps a personal acquaintance may convince Mr. B. we do not intentionally act "unfairly."—ED.]

Armorial Cottage,
Skell Bank,

Ripon, Aug. 24, 1882..

R. B. Marston, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your questions, I must answer to the following effect: (1) That I have not time for arranging a match in my present vacation, and that as there is no trout fishing at Christmas, I could not meet you before Easter, as stated in my last reply.

(2) That I cannot agree to any restrictions as to size, which do not admit the capture of trout, 6 inches long, the first size admitted assizeable in my own notes.

(3) That as in most burns the majority of the fish fall below the measurement you name, and that as in many of these the trout are more wary than fish of the southern and larger streams—thirty times the size; and since in this case it is as great a feat to hook a trout 1½ oz. as one of your 3 lb. trout, you desire to handicap the finest hair tackle to the extent of about 80 to 90 per cent. in the case of the usual class of mountain streams.

(4) That as the question relative to the merits of hair concerned all streams in which the fish did not exceed 1½ lb., and averaged less than 1 lb., I could not allow that the ordinary mountain burn should be excluded altogether from the test—a day or two would be needed in such waters.

(5) That the contest be limited to open hard fished waters, where the fish are wary, and not very numerous, or at least reach only to such preserved streams as owing to the low subscription are practically open to all comers; for heavy baskets in well protected waters are no tests of tackle; waters which elicit a display of little that emanates from a master of the art.

(6) That you name the 20th September to October 1st as a time when we could meet, but I must state that if we were to meet now, I could not do so after September 9th, and in this case the engagement would have to take the form of a private expedition and not a public contest, for which, as I have already shown, I cannot make arrangements before next Easter.

(7) That the fishing shall always be in each other's presence.

(8) That under the foregoing conditions I can meet you privately at once, and, according to the terms of the previous statement, at the time mentioned therein.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

P.S.—(9) That the total result of the whole fishing of both opponents, with one kind of tackle be compared with that taken by the other, and that this shall decide the issue if both use hair and gut.

SILK AND HAIR LINES, HAIR CASTS, &c.

(See foot-note before reading this letter.)

SIR,—I am afraid the lure which I threw to "The Logger-headed Chub" has proved to that fish a decidedly fell deception; for he certainly has quite misunderstood, either designedly or owing to some other mental caprice, my meaning. I must, however, make a passing comment relating to the insinuation, that the defence which I have advanced to protect anglers from error or imposture relating to piscatory facts, is "diabolical" in nature. "The Logger-headed Chub" appears to view Herne as simply an incarnation of the foul fiend; but I would advise that sceptical fish—for whom A.R.I.E.L. should throw a palatable frog or toad—to read the legend of my hunterself, that he may become aware of the causes which formerly, as now, conduce to my assumption of the antlered helm. Ho! ho! ho! Will you throw a line to catch a fish with Herne? Take a shot at my antlered brow and listen to the rattle of the rebounding bullets. Ha! ha! ha! Ho! ho! ho!

But to the letter. My fishy opponent evidently desires to make the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE believe that I took up a position, which I never for a moment attempted to maintain. I wrote very favourably in relation to the finest drawn gut, inasmuch that I said this substance is at times nearly, if not quite, as good as hair; and that remark had a general and not a special signification. Throughout the world the bulk of trout average far less than 1 lb.; I was not simply alluding to seven southern waters, I was writing of ninety-nine out of a hundred; the facts I stated are true, hair casts are, when the sun is bright and the water low, incomparably superior to the finest drawn gut, provided they have sufficient strength for the fish that have to be caught, and are not too greasy. When I have fished for trout in the Kennett, Thames, Lakes and other waters where the fish are large, or when the wind has had too much pressure on the rod, I have constantly employed the finest drawn gut; not because of its being nearly as good for hooking the fish, but merely in order to avail myself of a stronger material. In waters where few fish are caught above 1½ lb., and of such does the bulk of the streams throughout the world consist, I frequently, though by no means generally, use the finest drawn gut casts that are to be obtained for money, provided the fish are not shy whilst the water is fairly full and the sky overcast; but with conditions the reverse, hair is the "dernier ressort," is absolutely essential for my demands. You, Mr. Editor, and Mr. Francis both visited the Dove last year; and owing, some authorities say, to improper flies, others to improper tackle, your joint takes were not as large as they might have been, as were those of other anglers. You, Mr. Editor, frankly and like a true follower of Cotton, acknowledged the fact, but Mr. Francis is merciless on gut casts; it would be no use advising him to employ hair, in fact its adoption on his part would be downright folly; but here again I must give Mr. Francis his due, for like an honest man he owns to his fault in this respect, as a true fly-fisher of great experience, who also is an advocate of the hair and silk line.

"The Logger-headed Chub" is not satisfied with two examples of what may be done with hair tackle, though I could write a volume full of actual facts for his benefit. I did not wish to encroach too much on your space, Mr. Editor; but I must say that it would be a profitable enterprise on the part of Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, were they to publish "The Logbook and Diary of Herne the Hunter" verbatim, for the perusal of such sceptical individuals as my opponent of fishy personality. It is needless to add that though I do not advocate hair for trout above 1½ lb., it is unnecessary for me to fill your columns with facts from my diaries when some northern fly-fishers have had skill sufficient to fish for salmon with hair casts. Where are your southern anglers with their gut and 3 lb. or 4 lb. trout, for a description of whom I refer the readers of THE FISHING GAZETTE to a late number of the

Sportsman? There is no doubt that for large trout hair would surpass gut, had the angler skill sufficient for landing his fish.

The only other remarks of your correspondent, Mr. Editor, which are aimed at me, have to do with assertions relating to the possibility of catching an abundance of large trout with drawn gut. Now, it happens that I never breathed a doubt as to such a feat being impossible; my remarks were only comparative. I merely demonstrated that, where hair is sufficiently strong for its work, it will catch more fish. No allusion was made by me to any special department of fly-fishing, such as dry fly casting. The facts brought forward were general as applied to a master of the art, and not to the advocate of a single style, who has not even proved his case, except in relation to strength, a point that had already been granted. I certainly would not advise an angler, who, in playing his fish, breaks five drawn gut casts in two days, to use hair. If such a wielder of a flail be "second to none," I had rather be styled a pretender than be designated such a king of the art, whilst adding—

"Who that pretender is, and who that king;

God bless us all is quite another thing."

And now, sir, in relation to your own editorial remark. I would most sincerely like to tackle some of your big trout in your company with drawn gut, and even if I were limited to hair—though I then should have to use somewhat stouter material than I now do for fish of the size named—I fear you would have to lower your laurels to the son of the most redoubtable fly-fisher in the world. I will not lower mine to any man's *ipse dixit*, I will only lower my antlers to rebut, until such time as my assailant shall prove by the water's side who is, in a piscatory way, of the line royal. Can you bring to the earth my royals? But you mention hair and gut, and in relation to this matter I must remark that your allusion to the tackle I use is, in my opinion, exceedingly unfair. As you have never seen my rods and tackle, as you have only had sent to you a dozen casts of gut and hair to show the kinds of flies I employed, the mode of attaching droppers, and the way in which I was in the habit of making up casts of different material, colour, and thickness; and as these casts were sent to you at your special request about two years and four months ago, when it was not the fly-fishing season, when I was amongst the mountains, where exquisitely fine tackle was not required, when I reduce my own gut by means of a gut drawer if necessary, and when one might naturally be expected to be sparingly supplied with the finest casts both of hair and gut, which generally are worn out during a busy season. I think you should not have so strongly expressed your opinion in relation to the thickness of the material which I use, which, had it been in the case mentioned only one half thicker than your own, would even then have killed more fish than gut. I can simply say there was only one fine hair cast in the number, and that if you could fish with it on a Derbyshire stream, you would have loved the Dove much more dearly, whilst at the same time I have just obtained from a friend a sample of Cummin's finest-of-all fine drawn gut, and compared it with my own obtained from Hutchinson's, and I find that some of the latter is much thinner, and what is more, rounder than the former. Thinner drawn gut is not practicable, for mine is so fine that it will not stand more than one, or at the most, two days' of good fishing. Besides this, I have compared the hair I use for very untoward conditions of water, and I find that the thickest hairs of the tail are just of the same thickness as the foregoing gut, whilst the rest are much finer, and consequently less heavy both in specific gravity and bulk.

Lastly, there is the insinuation as to selfishness; can I believe my eyes? Mr. Editor, what! Is it you, my friend, who are writing? Et tu, Brute! One feels goaded to down with the antlered helm and gore the offender, but this time the assassin blow glances away and leaves him scatheless, who has yet to meet the man that can claim a better right, as heir to his father's matchless cunning.

Will you meet, my wizard might,
Will you prove to all who's right,
By mountain beck and bustling burn,
Yourself, fair sir, or Hunter Herne?
Ha! ha! ha! ho! ho! ho!

Yours, &c., HERNE THE HUNTER.

[This letter had, on account of its length, from want of space, been held over so long that we thought it had appeared. "Herne the Hunter" must surely see that we did not insinuate selfishness on his part. Mr. Francis Francis averaged over eight brace a day, and no fish under 11 inches, on the Wye, a fortnight later than we fished the Dove. In fact, we stated that we were just too late for the best of the trouting, and too soon for the best of the grayling fishing, and we are convinced we should have done much less than we did if we had used hair. "Herne the Hunter" must acknowledge that we have never put the question of whether gut or hair is best on the footing he suggests. We do not say that one angler using hair may not kill ten times as many fish as one using gut, but that if the more expert angler also used the fine drawn gut we recommend he would kill a still larger proportion of fish. However, in a few days' time we hope to meet him for a friendly match, gut against hair.—ED.]

HAIR AND GUT AND STRIKING FROM THE WINCH.

SIR,—I see you are holding a controversy anent the relative merits of hair v. gut, the length of a cast, and also in striking from the reel. Now, I reckon to know a little about most of those questions, and I am certainly with you in your opinions. Hair, perhaps, might have been better than gut in those days of yore when gut was only made thick or thin enough to kill the heaviest salmon that ever leapt the weirs; but lately gut has been introduced to the public that is much finer than hair. I have some fine drawn gut, 18 inches in length, and nearly as fine as the human hair, and much finer than the finest hair in my possession. Hair is hollow and elastic. When a few fish have been landed the hair becomes stretched to its utmost tension, and the next heavy fish you hook breaks the hair. On reference to my note-book, I find that when I used hair I could not do any better than I do now in using the very fine drawn gut under precisely similar circumstances—I allude to roach fishing. About a fortnight ago I killed in two days ninety-two roach, many of them very good ones, and I landed the whole of them with one of these very fine gut tackles and one hook, without a single breakage. Careful practice tells me that gut is the best, if you get it very fine drawn. I have tried my light, single-handed dace rod (fly), and I find that on the grass I can and have thrown 25 yards, measured from reel to fly, and we have a fly fisherman here who can beat me easily.

Have you ever seen a Nottingham centre pin reel, with a strong double action ratchet check in it? Now it is the correct tip to strike a fish from these reels without holding the line tight to the rod. One of our best fly-fishers found this dodge out by accident about two years ago. He found that the check in the reel was plenty strong enough to hook a chub in fly-fishing with double-handed rod and 4½-inch reel, as described. He says he very rarely misses a chub with that plan. I have with mine struck at a chub, and the

force of the stroke when picking up without the reel seldom take hold at the side of these of an inch and the thing is certain will not miss so many tight. It does seem a ratchet check in the each—rather expensive. If you like, and write a letter on the actual careful experiment a little, Balderston is wrong.

SIR,—Permit me to say, or any an Anglers' Benevolent Society. When I committed, Mr. C. view of its being accepted.

I now invite many numerous letters conversation or a and myself had a question before me.

I have since been benevolent in 18 Angling Society concerns me her clear myself from That I, and I Benevolent Society.

Lowther Lodge.

SIR,—Many misadventures after a little further sufficiently tested him with it re-fly" a little for delight.—I am, Bradford, Au [Come, A.R.]

SIR,—In per that C. E. Hol the New River caught and lan This was taken

SIR,—A friend have asked him

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FISH

SIR,—Would as to the fly-fish also whether the would be exceeded [We have, for trout, &c. Esk, above W

SIR,—Your word too much work of note (not a few), I am one in question chapter on "I one after careful amount of knowledge and keen research am aware of having a good spinners, and complete as flies which other shades of the edition of his list of flies for It is a great part of his lifetime, as fly fishers, of family are ready I should a FISHING GAZ an evening fly

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beg to inform my brother anglers desirous of joining a society that the accom-
modation is everything that can be desired for an angling society. The pro-
prietor, Mr. T. Hughes (who is a great lover of the sport, as the decorations
on the walls of the Albion and also those of the Foxley Tavern can verify) will
give the society his support in the shape of some valuable prizes. I shall
attend on Wednesday and Sunday evening to take the name of any gentlemen
who might wish to join, and also to give information as to the rules and regu-
lations of the society.—PIXIE.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

This society has removed from the Albion, Rodney Road, Walworth, to
the Foxley Tavern, Elliott Road, Brixton, where all communications for this
society are to be sent.—PIXIE.

Aug. 31.

ST. JOHN'S.

If Walton got takes of fish like we are having lately, I am thinking he would
have written a very different work to what he did, as one tray is enough to hold
the fish now on meeting nights. On Sunday last, out of a number of members,
the following had fish:—Messrs. C. Fudge, Bray, Reynolds, Hebben, Stevens,
and Rushton, the lot being a very small one of roach, dace, and jack, from the Lea.
Members will please take notice that at the last committee meeting it was
resolved that the club dinner shall take place on the last Sunday in September,
also that Mr. Thorling's prize and Mr. Rushton's prize will be fished for on
Sunday, August 27; notice of the same to be seen in the club room. Our
show of fish on Sunday last was very good, Mr. Reynolds winning Mr.
Rushton's prize with a very fine show of roach from Rickmansworth, several
going over 1 lb. each; Mr. Fudge winning Mr. Thorling's prize with roach
and jack from the Lea; Mr. Hebben had some fine roach from the Lea, one
fish going 1 lb. 3 oz. Mr. Bray, perch from the Lea; Mr. Hunt, roach and
bream from Pulborough, all small fish. I beg to remind secretaries that our
West Central No. 2 district visit will take place on Wednesday, September 20,
when we shall be glad to see as many of our friends as can make it convenient
to attend.—F.T.

Aug. 29.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 23rd several prizes were given for competition among the honorary
members of this society. As none of those gentlemen showed up at the head-
quarters in the evening, it is supposed they have all got blown away in the gale
that prevailed during the day. Messrs. Beckett and Boalch were out with
O. Brown, of Richmond, and managed to get about 7 lb. of nice dace, which,
considering how the wind blew, was not bad. Speaking of the wind, these
gentlemen assured me that the wind blew a large Windsor chair clean out of the
punt and Mr. B. nearly after it.—At the meeting held on the 30th ult. it was
decided that for the next competition members be allowed to fish where and
how they like. Mr. Boalch gave in his report of the meeting he attended at
Cannon Street Station, which caused a great deal of comment. The size of
the fish spoken of at the meeting was considered by a member as a deteriora-
tion to the "Eye and York" time, and endeavouring to preserve trout and jack at
the expense of all other fish by extending the fence months for trout and jack
and allowing the other fish to be taken at such a small size.—PIXIE.

Aug. 30.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Most of our members were out again this week, and worked hard to produce
as good a show of fish as the last, and in which they were almost as successful.
Mr. G. Letch had some first-class bream, Mr. Hurwood had dace and perch,
Mr. Welch had a pretty show of roach, dace, and gudgeon; H. Moore also
had roach, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. Petrie roach, dace, and perch; Mr. Raine
one nice jack. Mr. Scott was out on Wednesday, 30th inst., and brought
home some very nice roach, and one jack. Several other members weighed
in, which made a good show of fish in the club again this week.—H.
MOORE, sec.

P.S.—A most laughable coincidence occurred on Sunday last while out
fishing with two club members, Mr. Welch and Mr. Gibbs, and a member of
the Marylebone Angling Club. Mr. Gibbs, intently watching his float, did
not perceive a bullock behind him watching his tackle, who politely walked up
to his box and took his rod case off the top and ran away with it, eating it as
he went along. Calling Mr. Gibbs' attention to it, he bolted after him, and
after a long chase managed to get it. About an hour after, a gentleman fishing
lower down took out his bag to have some food, which he laid down by his
side, and which all of a sudden he lost, Mr. Bullock taking it and going on
the feed himself. Later on in the afternoon another gentleman also had his
rod case taken by the bullock, who completely gnawed it to pieces.

August 31.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 26th inst. Mr. E. Machin had a jack from Pulborough, weighing 6
lb.; a large fish, but in very poor condition, also a few roach. Mr. C. F.
Robinson, bream and roach from Amberley; Mr. W. Robinson, roach; Mr. S.
Wilkinson fishing at Broxbourne last week, had a very good day's sport, 13 perch
and 3 roach, on an average 6 oz. each, falling to his rod. The annual
excursion of members and friends, by road to Dagenham Lake, will take place
on September 10th; to leave the Middleton Arms, Mansfield Street, Kingsland
Road, 6 o'clock sharp. Eight prizes will be competed for. The distribution
to the winners taking place on Wednesday, September 20th.—T. GRETTON.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society had a nice show of fish on Sunday. Mr.
Wilson, bream from the Mole, the largest 3 lb. Mr. Humphries, roach from
Amberley, one weighing 1 lb. 4 oz. J. Gaze, roach and dace, and one jack of
5 lb. from Pulboro'. Messrs. Lord, Dewem, Goldstine and Richardson, roach
and bream from the Wey.—J. GAZE, sec.

August 28.

UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Our trays were not quite so full on Sunday last, the 27th, as on the previous
Sunday, but still there was a very decent show. The following members
weighed in fish:—W. Tyler, roach and bream; G. Belton, roach and bream
from Pulborough; F. Watts, bream, J. Eller, roach and bream from the
Medway; J. Currans, bream from the Wey.—W. BELTON.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The monthly meeting of the Central Committee will take place on Monday
evening next, September 4, at 9 o'clock, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. Angling
societies enrolled are invited to send two delegates to the meetings in future.
Secretaries will greatly oblige by sending particulars of any alteration as to
change of club-house, secretary, or nights of meeting, to enable me to get out
correct new lists.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

August 31.

WALTONIANS.

Mr. Waltham, roach, 3 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. Crabb, roach, 14½ oz.; Mr. Watson,
roach, 1 lb. 13½ oz.; Mr. Malcom, roach, 1 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. Rushbrook, roach,
14 oz.; Mr. Good, jun., roach, 2 lb. 12½ oz.; Mr. Phillips, roach, 6 lb. 12½ oz.

—A. J. MARRIOTT.

August 27.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

At a meeting held at the society's head-quarters on the 25th of August, Mr.
Russell in the chair, it was decided that the pegged-down competition for the
10th of September shall take place at Paddock Wood. Messrs. Cain and
Bedford were appointed to go down and mark out swims. Gentlemen desirous
of going will please communicate with Mr. Boalch, who has made special
arrangements with the railway company for that occasion. On the 30th, Mr.
Green and gentlemen belonging to the Larkhall exhibited some nice perch and
jack, the largest perch turned the scale 1 lb. 12½ oz.; Mr. Green's largest fish
weighed 1 lb. 5½ oz.; they came from Tring. Conditions for Paddock Wood
competition, tight line fishing only, all fish to weigh, according to club rules.—
PIXIE.

Aug. 30.

TROUT FLIES DICTATED BY RELIGION AND MUSIC.

THE construction of trout flies has long been a subject of argumen-
t and discussion between fly-fishermen, one side reasoning, with a good
show of being right, that an exact imitation of nature was the most
likely to take trout (of course with the same amount of skill in using
them), the other side claiming that any monstrous combination of fur
and feather, the like of which never was seen in the water or out of it,
was the most killing. There are few rules without an exception, and
both sides make a good showing when arguing from an experience
with single fish, and not on a general average. There is no account-
ing for what an individual trout may do, any more than there is what
an individual woman may do. Trout sometimes take the fly under
very strange and incomprehensible circumstances.

But I am wandering from the idea I had in view when I commenced
writing, which was that with the exception of a few standard makes,
like, for instance, the May-fly, Coachman, etc., the style and colouring
of flies as made and sold, is governed, not by what the trout like, but
by national music, and national religion, the last being the most
powerful, governing the former. In this country we have no national
music nor national religion. Neither, as a rule, have we native fly-
makers. They are either Scotch or Irish. The fish, waters and
climate are not materially different in the two countries in which they
learn the art of fly making, but the men and their habits of thought
are as different as possible. They leave the impression of their
thoughts on their work.

The Scotchman has the most depressing of all religions; has very
little expectation, or hope of his final salvation. If he sings at
all at his work, which is doubtful, he chooses the saddest of all
songs—

"When Jamie had been gone a twelvemonth and a day,
My Fether brak his arm and our cow was stole away,
My Mither taken sick and Jamie on the sea,
And old Robin Gray he came courting me—

My Fether argued, sair, my Mither dinna speak,
But she looked in my face 'til I thought my heart would break,
She gie him my hand, my heart was on the sea,
And old Robin Gray he came a gudeman to me."

Who with such sad thoughts and sad music could make a bright
gay fly (unless working from a model) that would skip over the
rippling waters like a thing of life.

The Irish fly maker, on the contrary, takes no thought of the
morrow. His religion sits lightly upon him and is not depressing.
If he sins, he confesses the same, and is forgiven. He has then no
responsibility of the past or fear of the future. He goes to his work
with cheerfulness, combines the bright colours with an imagination
not weighted by the doubt of his "election." In every bright feather
he sees a possible trout he expects to take next Sunday after an early
mass. He sometimes takes a little whisky with a slight aroma of
peat smoke in it. If he sings, it is—

"I've a wife to wed, and shure I am willing to take her,
But there she lies in the bed and the devil himself can't wake her,
Don't say nay, charming Judy Flanagan,
Don't say nay, you love Barney Brannigan."

In the two songs, if you know the music, you can see the two
schools of fly making. Try the former, they are proper, conventional,
each adapted to the various months of the year, and with them you
will take a few small trout. When your arm aches with fruitless
casting, if you are beside some deep pool where there should be large
trout and you would have a great joy the memory of which would last
you even to the time when you can fish no more, sit down, light your
pipe, smoke it most out, then look over your book until you find a
perfect nightmare of colours combined on one hook made by the man
who cracked with his buckthorn stick at the bulge in the tent, and
when told that that was his father's head, said he "couldn't help it,
the chance was too good to be lost." Put it on, drop it lightly on the
water and you will not wait long to have a "Donnybrook Fair" all to
yourself.—L.S.—In the American "Forest and Stream."

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the
"Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits
invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle
shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works,
Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been
received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the
Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's
registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by
the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every
respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable
success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior
imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived.
Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advrt.]

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

At the large and influential meeting held at Norwich to support the above undertaking, Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., made a most interesting speech, from which we shall next week quote certain passages, giving much information about the prospects of the Exhibition, which are most encouraging. We must thank Mr. Soman for sending us an early copy of his 'Argus' Report.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

[Pressure on our space prevents our inserting several letters this week.—ED.]

AMONGST THE CHALLENGES.

SIR,—Amongst the challenges published in your last week's paper, I see that I am made the subject of two, one of them being by "A Constant Subscriber," to perform my long-pending promise by writing those articles on fly-fishing-spinning for trout; and the other from no less an angler than "Herne the Hunter," to chuck "a palatable frog or toad" to "The Logger-headed Chub." Whether

"Each gives each a double charm,
Like pearls upon an Ethiop's arm,"

I don't know. And where is there a palatable toad? and who "The Logger-headed Chub" may be? are esoteric questions, into which I am not careful too curiously to inquire.

Touching my promise—it has not been forgotten. And if it has not yet been performed, that is not because the merits of fly-fishing-spinning have not yet been sufficiently tested. For long before the capture of those trout to which "A Constant Subscriber" so flatteringly refers, the test was quite complete. What I have been waiting for these "many months" is "more light," greater experience, not of the merits of so high an art, but in the practice of all its arcana.

That "invocation" is very, very *fetching*. Notwithstanding, I must not let it call up my contribution, like

"... the moon
Rising unto some sorcerer's tune
An hour too soon."

One part of the preliminary experience I had set myself has just ended; but another has now to begin. Ere your next issue is out I shall, I hope, be off for my annual holiday to one of the very best trout and salmon rivers in England or Wales. And by the time "A Constant Subscriber" reads these lines, haply my first holiday trout or troutlet may have found its trust betrayed. But when sweet September will have given place to "chill October," and our trouting rods and tackle are all stowed away till next spring, I shall have returned to Town; and before the freshness of the recollections of the past season of the angle has faded away into dimness, I will jot down my views of the new art, and hand them to you for the benefit of "A Constant Subscriber" and any others of your readers who may take an interest in the matter.

In those articles, I may have a word to say on the issues of Hair v. Gut, and Hair v. Silk, and Hair v. Silk and Hair, and Silk and Hair v. Silk, which are exciting so much sensation. And, in the meantime, you need not doubt that I shall not fail to watch most eagerly for the bulletin announcing the first encounter between the Editor and the Professor. And whoever in that contest may be the victor, I pray to Mars the other will "live to fight another day," and not be "in battle slain" outright.

One of your correspondents asks whether it is unusual for a trout to take a frog. The following anecdote was told me this summer by a gentleman, a millowner on the Gade. It shows that a frog at least is not always unpalatable even to a trout. My informant was walking with a friend by the waterside, when they observed a fair-sized trout feeding. They caught a small frog and tossed it to him. He had it in an instant. They then threw ten more, one after another, to him. He snapped them all up or ever they could swim a stroke. A twelfth he let go a yard or so before he made a dash at it, evidently "This way and that dividing the swift mind" as to whether 'twas good enough. And No. 13, not an unlucky number that time—went untouched away. It was clearly a case of *quantum suff*. But he might have made up a baker's dozen whilst he was about it. What do you think? That the wise trout moderates and enjoys? Or that they ought to have tickled his jaded palate more toothsome with a tempting toadling?—I am, &c.,
A.R.I.E.L.

GROUND BAITING.

(Continued from page 402.)

SIR,—Mr. Greville Fennell relates the following incident in his "Book of the Roach":—"Old Corbett, a Peninsular veteran, used to bring heavy baskets of roach from the Lea, and finding him upon one occasion at Ware, in Hertfordshire, we watched him closely from a respectful distance. He was seated upon a cane box, made by himself, to hold his tackle in the one-half, and his fish were dropped through a slit in the other, without his having to quit his seat. This box he moved from swim to swim. 'Why,' we enquired, 'do you shift your swim? You have just taken a good-sized roach at the last, and yet you leave it.' 'Yes, your honour, I have five pitches here within thirty yards, and I always make it a rule to move to another swim after taking a fish.' As this was somewhat new to us we asked the reason. 'Why you see, your honour, I have ground-baited each of these five swims, and I have found by experience that the noise and bustle made in landing a fish at one place drives the lot off, and they go to the others. where, if I throw a little fresh ground bait in, I get them about me again.' Upon this the veteran cast in a piece of ground bait not bigger than a hazel nut, and shortly landed another plumper. There was something, we thought, odd about the ground bait, and we therefore picked up a small piece he let fall and asked him bluntly what it was composed of. He frankly told us it was nothing but oatmeal—that pollard would do—browned over the fire in a frying-pan, and then mixed into a paste with treacle or

molasses. He had learned this from his Colonel (Williamson), a very expert and successful roach fisher, and he found it the most attractive ground bait he had ever used."

This Colonel Williamson wrote "The Complete Anglers' Vade Mecum," 1808, and was the Captain T. Williamson.

In ground fishing in gently flowing waters the aim should be to distribute and disperse the bait as much and as soon as possible, that all may get a taste, but few a surfeit, which latter they easily do by prodigal and senseless baiting.

Mr. W. Baily, of Nottingham, whom I believe to rank amongst the first of observant anglers, and whose writings will one day be more appreciated than even now, speaking in one of those paragraphs which he favoured the Press with during the angling season, says: "The latter fish (roach) have begun to take white wheat, and I understand lower down the river this bait has taken roach much better than anything else, with stewed crushed malt for ground bait. This sinks more quickly than grains, and keeps the fish all in one spot, but only a small quantity must be thrown in at a time. In fact, when roach are fairly on at malt, they are so fond of it that if a lot is thrown in they gorge themselves in a few minutes, so that the safest plan is to give them only a small quantity at a time, and that only when the fish begin to slacken biting."

The ground bait generally used in the Suffolk and Norfolk rivers is brewers' grains thrown broadcast in the stream, which seems particularly attractive for bream. But, when Mr. Greville Fennell went down to Cantly on the Yare, with his fisherman, Harry Crystall, and cheekily announced in the *Field*, to the Norfolk anglers, that he was coming down to show them that they might add at least six weeks or two months to their roach season; and that they left off when they ought to begin. He adopted the Thames style, by both mooring the boat athwart the stream, and using adhesive ground bait, such as is described by Mr. Francis Francis. Crowe, the landlord of the inn, told them that they were welcome to a boat, but that they would be throwing their time away; they might, perhaps, catch two or three roach, but the probability was that they didn't get a bite. Instead of this being the case, they got upwards of 84 lb. of good roach, greatly to Crowe's astonishment, who had known the Norfolk waters from boyhood, and never in his life saw such a thing for the time of year. The fact is, no one had tried.

That fish may be gorged and surfeited even naturally, we have proof in regard to trout, in the May-fly season, as D. Foster, in his "Scientific Angler," truthfully remarks, after feeding on the ephemera. "By the time the season of the drake terminates, the fish have so regaled themselves upon this lusty ephemeral, that for a week or so they find it incumbent upon them to retire to the deep still water, to doze off the effect of the excess, after which they again resort to their accustomed posts, which are not forsaken until the spawning season again comes round, except when forced to retreat in the face of what in Highland phraseology is called a heavy "spate."—I am, &c.,
CREEL.

"DON'T BE LET IN BY ADVERTISEMENTS."

SIR,—Your correspondent, "N. Devon," in your issue of Aug. 12, writing under the heading of "Some queries about hens," &c., advises gents who are about to go on a fishing trip, "Not to be let in by advertisements." With this I quite agree, and only wish all those seeking fishing quarters would first consult the rivers report columns of the FISHING GAZETTE, and read for themselves the various reports, which are mostly signed in full, and would communicate with the writer before venturing upon their trip, or even writing you (Mr. Editor), who, I am sure, would give the requisite information, beside giving the names of correspondents, who, from practical experience upon the waters selected would only be too willing to do the same, which would save many extra miles of travel, and, of course, unnecessary expense. I have had during the past and present seasons numbers of gentlemen here from London, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Gloucester, and various other counties, who have written me through reading the FISHING GAZETTE, and, who have returned, heartily pleased with the splendid sport they have all had. One gentleman has just left here, after a three weeks' sojourn, for London, having had to return rather earlier than anticipated, much to his displeasure; his average takes being about a score of trout per diem. One or two salmon peel a week, and during the time one fine salmon. This is but one case in point. Your correspondent also states: "I know a gent who has lately come into Devon for fishing, and he has taken his house with a distance of nineteen miles to go by train, and had he first applied at the right quarters, eight would have been the farthest distance, without a change of trains." With this, my words are verified, and I consider all those who so willingly give this information, and saving of expense, entitled to some small remuneration for such, as a good puntsman mostly gets for placing a customer on a good swim; even a dish of trout would be acceptable, which might be easily picked out from the day's sport. The smallest are as sweet as the large, to those who willingly and often foolishly part with their knowledge so cheap. I am not speaking on my own account, there are many needy but good anglers here, who have been in the habit of giving the best of advice to visitors, who seem to take it for granted, that as strangers, the advice and whereabouts should be freely given; so with thanks for your kindness they depart.

Excuse me for trespassing so far upon your valuable space, but should those through THE FISHING GAZETTE, or any other medium, read this, it may remind them that there is such an institution as the Anglers' Benevolent Society, who would thankfully receive any donation, however small, with this note attached. On account of the successful day or days or weeks fishing from such and such a part from advice freely given when in Devon, York, Berks, &c.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

[If anglers would take the trouble, even to merely consult the ordnance map, they would see in a moment how far their lodgings will be from the river. The further from a railway-station the better the fishing, is our view of the matter. We insert no misleading advertisements, as far as we know.—ED.]

LARGE BREAM.

SIR,—My bream of 7 lb., the capture of which was recorded in your journal, is well preserved by Cooper, and can now be seen at Hatfield's, the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, where it will remain for a short time.—I am, &c.,
THOS POOLE.

August 29.

THE WHARFE AT POOL.

SIR,—Would you or any of your numerous readers kindly give me any information respecting fishing in the Wharfe at Pool, as I am about having a day or two there?

What kind of baits, tackle, &c.; and if there is any fly fishing to be had there,

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NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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Messrs. Gee and Co., Gray's Inn-lane (near Holborn end).
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or

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Messrs. Gaynor and Son, 10, Royal-terrace, Richmond, Surrey.
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Messrs. Cayless and Sons, Midland Tent Works, Loughborough.
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Mr. Wm. Atkinson, Fishing Tackle Maker, Lancaster and Kendal.
Mr. John Wells, 4, London-road, Nottingham.
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Mr. John Keeling, the Golden Salmon, 7, Digbeth, Birmingham.
Mr. John Heywood, Manchester.
Mr. John Cocks, Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey.
Mr. Wm. Reid, Northgate, Darlington.
Mr. R. Pearsall, 11, Great Western Arcade, Birmingham.
Mr. G. T. Gibbons, 10, Bridge Street, Salisbury.
Mr. Thos. Heppleston, Manchester.
Mr. J. Perry, Minster Parade, Reading.
Mr. S. Dale, 7, St. John Street, Nottingham.
Mr. H. Booth, 88, Prospect Street, Hull.
A. W. Warner, 121, Broad Street, Birmingham.

Newsvendors can obtain the journal through their London Agents

* The "FISHING GAZETTE" SPINNER (Registered) is sold by all the above firms.

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The Annual Subscription, payable in advance, for the United Kingdom is 8s.; or post free, 10s. 6d.

To any part of Europe, the United States, and Canada, the Annual Subscription, including postage, is twelve shillings and sixpence.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the Manager of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON AND CO., the Proprietors.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1882.

R. BALDERSTON v. R. B. MARSTON.

GUT v. HAIR.

THE readers of the GAZETTE having taken considerable interest in the fly-fishing match which was announced to take place between Mr. R. B. Marston and Mr. Robert Balderston (who also calls himself the "Raven" and "Herne the Hunter," &c.), we will now give them a short account of the affair, the absolute truth of which we guarantee.

Mr. Marston reached Ripon on the evening of the 31st August, and immediately called upon Mr. Balderston, whom he found to be a man of about his own age. After a long and pleasant chat it was arranged at Mr. Balderston's suggestion, that on the following day (Friday) the two anglers should have, not a regular match, but a sort of ramble together on the Laver, a small trout stream which flows into the Yore at Ripon, after joining another small stream called the Skell. However, the "ramble" soon changed itself into a competition, Mr. Marston using Bullmer's "gossamer" drawn gut as "cast," Mr. Balderston using fine hair, and having omitted to bring his net, had to land his fish without. Mr. Marston laboured under the disadvantage of feeling so unwell the first part of the day as to be hardly able to hold the rod, a new one, which he had never used before. At Mr. Balderston's suggestion, he took one pool or stream, and Mr. Marston the one above it, then Mr. B. took the next above Mr. M., and Mr. M. the one above that again, and so on. Mr. Marston used a short, stiff ten-foot rod, Mr. Balderston a longer and much more whippy rod. The water was in capital order for the fly, having nearly cleared off after the fresh. Both anglers used, of course, nothing but the artificial fly. The fish were not well on the rise, and both anglers had to work hard for what they got.

The result of this day's fishing was that Mr. Balderston got twelve trout, Mr. Marston got eleven, but threw back three at the commencement of the fishing, not supposing that they would prove only too fair a sample of the small fish in this stream. Mr. Balderston weighed the two lots, and Mr. Marston's eight weighed more than Mr. Balderston's twelve, so most anglers would say Mr. M. had won.

On the Saturday, both anglers fished on the Yore below Ripon, but the water was high and coloured, and the result was almost nil, Mr. Marston getting a fair roach and dace, and Mr. Balderston a dace; both used fly.

On Monday, at Mr. Balderston's suggestion, the Laver at Laverton was agreed on as the scene of operations, considerably against Mr. Marston's wishes, as the fish to be got were such small things. The fishing was in the same style as the first day, one rod taking one stream and the other the one above; in rotation. Mr. B. began with hair. At lunch time, on comparing baskets, Mr. Marston had eighteen trout, and Mr. Balderston only ten or eleven; Mr. M.'s fish were also a better average size. The day was very bright and hot for the most part. In fishing back after lunch, Mr. M. got four more to Mr. B.'s one. On reaching Laverton Mr. B. seemed to have had enough of it, but after a little refreshment both anglers started off down stream, Mr. M. going ahead, and finding another angler fishing the stream he had intended to fish, walked a mile or more down stream to get to the end of the dead water. In the streams below the mill, Mr. M. got three more fish, one a trout of half-a-pound. During this day's fishing, Mr. M. having broken his landing net, landed most of his fish without it, the small size of the fish making it an easy matter to do so. It should also be mentioned that after lunch Mr. B. had changed from hair to gut. A trap had been ordered at Laverton to be ready between six and seven, and Mr. M. left off fishing about six and walked back; on the way he met Mr. B., who said he was feeling cold, and intended to walk to Ripon. Mr. M. tried to dissuade him, but without avail; in fact, Mr. B. seemed in a very sad mood. He said he had caught two or three more. Mr. M. saw nothing more of Mr. B. until next morning, when Mr. B. called at the hotel with the following extraordinary epistle for Mr. M.

R. B. Marston, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose my ticket for Hackfall, which you can use yourself. I shall not be able to accompany you to-day, as the skin is off my feet and I have some business to do. I have not yet got an answer about the Cover stream, but if this be satisfactory, I can meet you on Wednesday or Thursday on that river; but after the fiasco of yesterday, and the fish which could not bear inspection, but needed apology, I must insist on the conditions I laid down, and which you have so transgressed, that the fish be sizeable at six inches, and that we fish alternately in each other's presence, as I cannot waste my time leaving my own fishing, as I have had up to the present to do, running after you to see what you were about. Wishing you honest sport to-day.

I remain, dear sir,

Yours truly,

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

In answer to this letter, Mr. Marston at once replied as follows:—

SIR,—Your letter proves you to be no gentleman, and I will have nothing more to do with you. I can imagine nothing meaner than your base insinuations. I return your permit to fish at Hackfall, having no desire to be under any obligation whatever to such a mean-spirited man. I will, as I said before, have nothing more to do with you.

R. B. MARSTON.

To Robert Balderston, Esq.

P.S.—You are at liberty to publish this letter if you like.

adversary stretched on the grass at your feet, after ten minutes' fight on a drawn gut cast?

That at all events is my idea, and if there be a big fish about I enjoy attempting its capture a great deal more than any amount of "chance" whipping over the stickles. I fear, however, I am encroaching on your space, and must cut short these remarks which have extended much further than I originally intended them to do, as this subject, being a favourite hobby of mine, I am in the habit, when fairly mounted, of riding it either too fast or too far.

R. A.

R. B. MARSTON v. R. BALDERSTON.

MR. MARSTON could not imagine what Mr. Balderston meant by referring to Mr. Marston's fish as "needing apology and not bearing inspection," inasmuch as Mr. Marston never apologised for them, and allowed Mr. Balderston to inspect them whenever he liked. It now appears from a letter which Mr. B. has written to the "Trent Otter," and which the "Trent Otter" sent on to Mr. Marston, that Mr. B. accounts for his being beaten by saying that Mr. Marston "took trout with him and then pretended he had caught them!" Mr. B. says when he examined Mr. M.'s fish at lunch time some of them were dry, while his were moist even at night. When Mr. B. so carefully examined Mr. M.'s trout he said never a word of this, and he knew that fish in an open wicker-work creel, such as Mr. Marston used will get dry in an hour or two on a hot, dry day, whereas his own fish were carried in a waterproof, almost air-tight, leather case. Indeed, Mr. B. had himself previously pointed out the fact that the fish would get dry in a wicker creel and keep moist in an air-tight one. Every trout fisher knows this. Mr. B. also tells the "Trent Otter" that on the first day Mr. Marston threw a stone into the water, pretending that it was a fish he was returning as undersized. He says he saw Mr. M. do this. Now, can any of our readers imagine this eminent scientific man, this curator of the Ripon fossils, this ex-curator of the fell-beck fishes, this son of the most eminent fly fisher of the day.* Can anyone imagine this great man condescending to go on fishing with Mr. Marston for three days after having seen Mr. M. throw a stone in the water after telling Mr. B. it was a fish? Mr. M. only regrets he did not insist on his first suggestion being carried out, viz., that there should be witnesses to the fishing, but Mr. B. objected to this, and it would appear now that he did so with the deliberate intention of saying Mr. Marston cheated, in case he (Mr. B.) got beaten. Why did not Mr. B. accuse Mr. M. on the spot, at once, as any man or gentleman would have done? He knew better than to do that.

SIR THOMAS BARRETT LENNARD'S ANNUAL SALE.

THE annual sale of the Belhus hunters takes place on Thursday next. This event may not inaptly be compared to the annual recurrence of some of our celebrated races. Just as the Doncaster St. Leger brings us to the close of the racing year, so does the Belhus sale announce the advent of the hunting season. This will be the eighth year that Sir Thomas has got together as fine a lot of hunters as one can wish to see. The catalogue comprises forty first-class horses, and amongst them are some remarkably fine specimens of the perfect hunter. I don't propose to go through the list, but rather to call the attention of your readers to this grand opportunity for procuring a splendid mount for the approaching hunting season. Here are to be found all sorts and descriptions of equine beauty, from the ladies' perfect hack, to the grand weight-carrying hunter. The sale is announced for one o'clock, the luncheon at 12, and I may remark that the well known hospitality of Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard is always done full justice to on these occasions by the large and fashionable company which is invariably attracted to the scene.

For the information of those who propose attending the sale, I may state, that Belhus is four miles from Rainham and five miles from Grays Stations on the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway; and seven miles from Romford, on the Great Eastern Railway. The train leaving Fenchurch-street Station at 10.50 will stop at Rainham on the day of the sale. A special train will start from St. Pancras Station at 10.30, and will return from Rainham Station at 7.0.—R. J. M.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

* We wondered this remarkable fly-fisher had never been heard of except through his son. It appears he carried on the business of an ironmonger at Hawes, until recently, it was doubtless in this business that Mr. B. junior, acquired his immense stock of "brass."—ED.

ANGLING FOR SEA-TROUT ON THE EAST AND SOUTH COASTS.

IN all probability good sport might occasionally be enjoyed by angling for sea-trout near and in the estuaries of rivers between Yarmouth and the Isle of Wight. While spinning with one of Hearder's plano-convex minnows, a nice fish of this kind was taken, the other day, off the east point of Ramsgate Harbour. Several large bass have lately been killed there with artificial bait, both early in the morning and late in the evening when no boats were moving, and in the daytime when the sea has been moderately rough. The bass is a shy fish. Fishermen who have taken sea-trout with rod and line within the limits pointed out, should give us the benefit of their experience. A good book on sea-fishing with rod and line is still a desideratum. Such a work, with an appendix containing information as to the best places and times for fishing round the coast, supplied by those who have had practical experience, would meet a want that is increasing every year. The sea is large enough for us all.

The following remarks of the late Mr. Buckland, on sea-trout, in the capital report made by himself and Mr. Walpole, in 1879, *On the Sea Fisheries of England and Wales*, are worth attending to:—

"I do not propose to enter in this appendix into the natural history of the salmon. . . . A curious fact, however, which has not yet been sufficiently recognised, must not be omitted in this report, viz., the occasional presence of sea-trout along the coast of England near rivers which do not contain spawning grounds for migratory salmonidae. This part of England may be said to begin at Yarmouth and to extend all the way round as far as the Southampton Water and the estuary of the Itchen. The principal places where these fish are found are Yarmouth, the estuary of the Yare at Gorleston, the mouth of the Thames, and the estuaries of the Canterbury, Stour, the Rother, the Ouse, and the Arun, all situated between the South Foreland and the Isle of Wight.

"On June 14th, 1879, Mrs. French, of Yarmouth, showed me six or seven very handsome silvery fish, the largest weighing about four pounds. They had been caught in a seine net to the south of Golestone Pier, and I was informed by Dr. Norman that considerable quantities of these fish had been caught in 1879; and when at Yarmouth, in the middle of August, I found they were still abundant. These fish were bull-trout, and in my official report on the fisheries of Norfolk.* I stated that I thought these Yarmouth bull-trout were visitors from the Coquet, the Tyne, and Berwick-on-Tweed, in fact, a bull-trout was on one occasion caught at Yarmouth with a Berwick mark upon his tail. These bull-trout, without doubt, come to feed upon the shrimps of both kinds, that are so plentiful along the Norfolk coast. In August 1879, a fish over 13 lbs. was caught seven miles north of Yarmouth.

"They are netted in seines close to the shore. I am strongly of opinion these fish would take a spinning bait. I advise anglers to make a trial of this idea, for if it succeeds it will form quite a new addition to the resources of rod fishermen from London, Norwich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and the neighbourhood. Almost every year for many years past I have received migratory trout caught in white-bait nets in the estuary of the Thames and Medway. I had hoped that these were some of the fish I had bred artificially, but I am afraid it is not so.

"Every year considerable numbers of sea-trout are caught in the fixed nets at Pegwell Bay. It is difficult to get hold of them, as they are immediately sold in Ramsgate and Margate. Some of these may have been hatched in the Canterbury Stour. Small sea-trout are also taken in the kettle nets near Romney Marshes."

Mr. Buckland also speaks of migratory trout being caught between Dymchurch and Dungeness, in the estuaries of the four Sussex rivers before mentioned, in Rye Bay and in the Ouse below Lewes. He thinks it possible that the bouge, "budge," or sea-trout, of the Southampton Water, may be the same class of fish.—O. L.

NORFOLK BROADS (WROXHAM.)

THINKING that many of your readers, and probably some who contemplate a week or fortnight's fishing in Norfolk, would like to hear a correct account of the personal experience of a fisherman, who is a lover of the gentle art, and one also who wishes to state truthfully his experience upon any water he may have fished. To commence, I should advise any fishermen starting with a desire to fish the Broads, to do away with the notion that he is to have the enormous takes reported in some of the books recently published, descriptive of fishing in Suffolk and Norfolk, or he will be doomed to as much disappointment as I have been. I arrived at Wroxham Station at 12 a.m., on the 28th August, and secured a bed at the King's Head. I immediately inquired for a fisherman, and secured the services of one of the two in the village. He was quietly smoking his pipe at the bar of the house. I inquired of him if he had any well scoured worms, gentles, and ground bait ready, and to my surprise he had no bait of any kind ready. Worms he had to dig for among some rubbish in the yard of the house, and anyone can imagine the success likely to be gained by such a bait. I am not quite sure if he had any live bait to dispose of, although it is reported that baits at 1s. per score are easily procurable at any of the fishing stations. Here, I may remark, this was the invariable rule at Wroxham, to the disappointment of many anglers, who, like myself, thought it would pay the local fishermen to provide the necessities in the shape of bait that visitors require, than loafing at a public bar, smoking and drinking, waiting for something to turn up, but too lazy to provide the bait, &c., for that unlucky turn up on his arrival. I and a young

* H. of C. Paper. No. 428, Sess., 1875.

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supper at the Sun Hotel, Kingston, the tripe and its usual accompaniment, rump steaks, being well served up and thoroughly enjoyed. There were no pre-ensions to set toasts; Mr. W. H. Brougham being first called upon to make some remarks, referred to the visit of royalty to a day's fishing at Twickenham, in the atmosphere of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and after noticing several topics connected with the Thames, informed those present that Mr. F. C. Clench, and Mr. A. J. Little, having offered to the T. A. P. S. their services as honorary river keepers, were now in possession of the necessary warrants to act in that capacity. Mr. F. C. Clench, who acted as chairman of the evening, in his usual energetic spirit, announced the result of the competition, the first prize was awarded to Mr. John Bond, for 35 lb. 12 oz. of barbel, perch, and dace; the second prize to Mr. Terrill, with 13 lb. 9 oz. of roach and dace; the other prizes were won in the following order: Mr. Houghton, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Griffiths. Mr. Alfred Nuthall, in responding to the Richmond Piscatorial Society, offered to give a prize for specimen fish only, and strongly deprecated the system of gross weight competitions, which was warmly applauded. Mr. F. C. Clench replied to the toast of the chairman, and Messrs. H. Dickenson and W. Abbott to that of the vice-chairman Mr. J. H. Gaunt performed his secretarial duties with his accustomed courtesy. Messrs. W. Abbott, Crew, and others sang some excellent songs, and the evening was one of a very pleasant character.—B.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Owing to various causes I am unable to send you any good account of our members' doings this week. Mr. D. M. Humby has had roach and dace; Mr. W. R. Humby, roach; Mr. C. Scull, roach; and Mr. Wheatstone, roach, and a nice tench of 2 lb. 14 oz. The last-named gentleman was very unfortunate at Ringwood last week, his punt having no well, and being without a keep net, he hung a hamper over the side of his punt for want of anything better, and the lid having by some means become unfastened, all the fish got out, among them being, he tells me, some 2 lb. roach. Yesterday evening we held our quarterly general meeting. There was a good attendance, and the balance sheet, which was of a highly satisfactory character, being read out by the secretary, was received with general approval.—G.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

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It will be seen from the above statement that compared with the previous year the number of trout caught during the past season have fallen off by about one-half. The competitions have been unprecedentedly numerous this year, numbering no fewer than fifty-seven, though the total number of competitors are less than in 1881. The general average to each rod in the competition was 2 lb. 9½ oz. The first kill for the season was achieved by Mr. Thomson, Cowdenbeath, on 19th January. The heaviest basket landed from any boat was got on 6th May by Messrs. Ridley, Northumberland—thirty-five trout, 30 lb. 8 oz. The heaviest single trout was caught by Mr. J. B. Mills at the competition of the Dundee Club on 21st August, the weight being 3 lb. 14 oz. The heaviest basket at a competition was got by Mr. P. D. Malloch, Perth, winning the Patron's Prize in the Kinross-shire Club on 1st September—twenty trout, weighing 19 lb. 14 oz.

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supper at the Sun Hotel, Kingston, the tripe and its usual accompaniment, rump steaks, being well served up and thoroughly enjoyed. There were no pre'ensions to set toasts; Mr. W. H. Brougham being first called upon to make some remarks, referred to the visit of royalty to a day's fishing at Twickenham, in the atmosphere of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and after noticing several topics connected with the Thames, informed those present that Mr. F. C. Clench, and Mr. A. J. Little, having offered to the T. A. P. S. their services as honorary river keepers, were now in possession of the necessary warrants to act in that capacity. Mr. F. C. Clench, who acted as chairman of the evening, in his usual energetic spirit, announced the result of the competition, the first prize was awarded to Mr. John Bond, for 35 lb. 12 oz. of barbel, perch, and dace; the second prize to Mr. Terrill, with 13 lb. 9 oz. of roach and dace; the other prizes were won in the following order: Mr. Houghton, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Griffiths. Mr. Alfred Nuthall, in responding to the Richmond Piscatorial Society, offered to give a prize for specimen fish on'y, and strongly deprecated the system of gross weight competitions, which was warmly applauded. Mr. F. C. Clench replied to the toast of the chairman, and Messrs. H. Dickenson and W. Abbott to that of the vice-chairman. Mr. J. H. Gaunt performed his secretarial duties with his accustomed courtesy. Messrs. W. Abbott, Crew, and others sang some excellent songs, and the evening was one of a very pleasant character.—B.

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What does "Sprint" mean when he talks of a trout's "deadweight of two or three pounds or more as he slowly makes tracks for a bed of weeds?" If this is his notion of an Itchen or Test fish he is vastly mistaken. One good day between Alresford and Bishopstoke, or between Stockbridge and Romsey is quite enough to dispel the allusion about the gameness of a chalk stream trout once and for ever. When "Sprint" talks of persons "who know trout fishing only under these circumstances," is he himself fully aware what the circumstances are which make the killing of a big fish, weight for weight, so much more difficult in a southern chalk stream than it is in the northern rapid moorland waters? I am speaking from experience. I have killed large fish on fine tackle in rapid Scotch streams and in "sluggish waters," as "Sprint" calls them; and I have no hesitation in saying that a fish from 2 to 3 lb. is infinitely harder to basket on a weedy, chalk stream than he is in the clear rapid streams of the North. I feel confident that any one, who is fairly qualified to judge of both kinds of fishing, will bear me out in this. I think "Chub Chavender," with his "wretched trout, diminutive from lack of food, continued through countless generations," is much nearer the mark as a description suitable to the denizens of many a northern stream. This may not apply literally to the waters "Sprint" frequents, but surely the lives of the trout must be wretched, indeed, if the 150 members of an angling association, including "as many crack fly fishermen as any other association," are only restrained from a murder of the six-inch innocents by a formulated rule of the club. Wretched, indeed, must be the prospect to a troutling doomed to die so young, with 150 anglers all thirsting for his blood so soon as he shall pass the six-inch limit.—I am, &c., H. S. H.

[We fully expected "Sprint's" libel on our southern trout would bring forward some champion. If "Sprint" had seen the way a 2 lb. trout we got recently near London fought for fully five minutes, leaping half-a-dozen times out of the water, he would not think them sluggish! H. S. H. and "Sprint" are two good anglers, and we sincerely trust they will agree to differ amicably. There is much to be said in favour of north country fishing, even if the fish do run small, and we must admit that we enjoy catching a 10 or 12 lb. basket of, say Eden trout, averaging three to the pound, with a sprinkling of bigger fish up to 2 lb. perhaps; we enjoy a day's fishing of this kind in a rapid river in a lovely country, better than a take of larger fish in the quiet Hampshire streams. But such matters as these are questions of individual taste, and ought never to send our correspondence thermometer up to "blood-heat."—ED.]

P. S.—Since writing the above, Mr. Hall's midges have come to hand. They are superbly made, and we intend to get a stock made from these patterns, and on Mr. Hall's capital eyed hooks. Although the midges we used were as small as these they were not so neatly made. We may say that we did try other flies of all kinds and sizes, up to the large red caterpillar. We will send "Sprint" some of these midges of Mr. Hall's as soon as we can get any made. The hooks are made by Messrs. Hutchinson, of Kendal.—ED.]

SILKWORM VERSUS HORSE.

SIR,—Probably there are many of your readers like your correspondent of last week, "Chub Chavender," who "can't understand why so fierce a battle should be waged over the comparative virtues of hair and gut!"

I have often thought when I have been reading with the greatest interest the articles and letters which have appeared in the GAZETTE upon the subject that it must have been very uninteresting to a large majority of the fraternity. It is well, however, to remember that "the brotherhood" embraces many distinct branches, and that each branch engages in the angling business in its own particular line. Modes of weighing in, baiting swims, paste for roach, &c., have only a very general interest for us northerners, who have to confine our attention almost exclusively to trout and grayling. But those subjects very properly have their turn, and so our brethren, the bait fishers, must not begrudge us the space if we run out the lines a bit (and really we have done it of late as though the lines were all on Nottingham reels, they have come off so freely). To us the subject can hardly be termed a second rate one. It's one of the first importance. Why, I know some natives upon the streams in this district whose professional credit hangs by a good hair. They have always used hair, done great feats with hair, always will use hair as long as they can wield the wand at all.

One of them bought a horse for his tail, and kept him well to grow hair. Poor fellow! When he was no more, deeply regretted, might, with a lot more consistency, have been inscribed over his grave than where we sometimes see it.

Previous to this matter being exalted into the columns of the GAZETTE, some of those old hands could not speak of the relative virtues of hair and gut with anything like patience. "Gut was not to be mentioned in the same day as hair for fly fishing." Now, however, the subject is actually seriously discussed in the small coteries of anglers that draw together for their evening pipe. Could you, sir, only have your ear to the telephone of a wire connecting you with one of those council chambers, you would be able to give your readers some lively comments and sage criticisms. "Ah, well! gut is all right for fiddlestrings, but it's about nought for fly fishing; it's as heavy as a tar band and makes such a splash." And so on go these philosophical remarks to the end of the programme, and then it's repeated next time the assembly meets, which, of course, vanquishes all the arguments in favour of gut, which after all are only as the smoke from their pipes.

I cannot be considered a member of these parliaments, but I do now and again enjoy a seat in the chimney corner, though I am afraid that there's a suspicion that I am not a "true blue" on this hair question; they are doubtful that I've been perverted, for only the other day when I went out with the president for a throw and was putting on my cast, he spied gut. "What, are you bound to fish with gut?" said he. I kept from blushing as well as I could, while I stammered out, "That I was going to give it a try; there has been so much said about it lately." "Ugh," and he passed on to wet his own cast. We soon had the river between us, and I got a couple before he had one, but he was not long before he cantered past me, and at the day's end he had almost four to my one. He had glorious satisfaction; he'd given the young 'un another lesson. "What had you on?" said he when we were walking slowly homeward. "Oh! I'd brown watchett and red palmer and musk and the dun, what did you find them take?" "Well, I could get 'em with nowt at first but the light blue, and then when the watter cam' out they wadn't look at it, but took needle like shot." "Well," I said, "I saw the needle on by scores, but I never thought they would take on in such a big water, and so I never put one on." "Only in the quiet corners," he said, and he knew well enough he had touched me in one. But I've wandered. I meant to say that I have come to the conclusion that on this burning question my good friends in the dales have too much prejudice and too little knowledge. When they think of gut their idea is that it is the sort of stuff that they use with lobworms in a

big water. Bulmer's "Gossamer" drawn gut is an excellency of very recent times, and it has not reached the dales yet, except when a stranger makes an excursion to their stream. He does not do so well, for he is not acquainted with the stream and does not know the best flies, but his non-success is gut, of course, when the native comes across him. There many things to consider in this question. Your correspondent "Sprint" wrote well, pretty nearly all that could be said for hair—a very sensible letter I thought, but other matters, such as length of your cast, number and distance of your flies upon it, weight of your casting and reel line, all require consideration and adjustment if gut is to be got well out, lightly, straight, and without tangle—the latter too often caused by the end fly rebounding upon the line when the cast is made. One point I like gut in preference to hair is one upon which I find myself in disagreement with "Sprint," it can be cast straight. Hair too often—even good hair—will keep, hour after hour, a nasty curl in the end length, whereas gut when softened always goes out in a straight line. I won't repeat the arguments already put with so much force both by yourself and correspondents. No doubt this correspondence will have induced many anglers to try both gut and hair for themselves, in circumstances where they can be tested with something like accuracy. We shall probably have lots of "experience meetings" after this thorough ventilation of the subject.—I am, &c. INGLEBOROUGH.

September 25.

[If any hair-fisher who has not seen really fine drawn gut will write to us we shall be most happy to send him a sample gratis.—ED.]

THE FOOD OF SALMON IN FRESH WATER.

SIR,—A few facts relative to the food of salmon may prove interesting to "Salmo Salai" as well as to many of your numerous readers; and as you justly observe, Mr. Editor, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," I hope my remarks will have the same effect. For many years past I have had largely to do with salmon from all parts of the United Kingdom, as well as Norway and Sweden, but during the past ten years have had principally to do with the rivers Exe and Dart, to which rivers I intend to confine myself on the above subject, and to the year 1874, being the season I devoted considerable time in searching for the parasites, both inwardly and outwardly of the salmonidae, from these rivers, upon which I may send you a résumé, with your kind permission, shortly. The year 1874 yielded a very good supply from both of these rivers, the Exe more especially. During this season I opened 490 fish, namely 290 from the Exe, and 150 from the Dart; also 50 peel from the latter river. The majority of these fish are taken almost in the salt water, but the Exe fish have a chance of reaching a few miles up into the fresh water previous to being netted, consequently have had time to satiate their appetites with a fresh water meal. It is not very frequent to find any substance whatever in the stomachs excepting mucus; but I have taken from those fish just from sea, such fish as pilchards, sand eels, shrimps, prawns, and the remains of other crustaceæ; and upon several occasions the half-digested portions of grey mullet, and once only about six inches of the tail end of a redband fish. From those taken in fresh water I have taken quantities of minnows and small eels, and on one occasion an eel over one foot in length. Stones are by no means an unfrequent find, but I believe them to be taken accidentally, because when most frequently found is, during the very heavy freshets, when the land soil is washed down in abundance. I have known several salmon taken with a large shrimp (not a prawn), in the upper waters, and I verily believe that the artificial fly is taken in a great measure for the shrimp, with which they meet in considerable quantities in the Exe, within a mile or so of the city. Of sea trout we do not get an abundance; but what few I have examined were either full of shrimps (pink ones) or britt (whitebait). Mr. E. Parfitt in his "Fauna of Devon" says the sea trout frequent the south coast, and three specimens were captured in the salmon pool below Exeter, April 28th, 1864. The largest measured 19½ inches long; girth, 11½; weight, 3 lb 9 oz. Some time since I communicated the contents of numerous seafish stomachs to the late F. Buckland, of which I could inform you.—I am, &c., FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

[Is Mr. Gosden certain about the minnows? Are they found so near the sea?—ED.]

MARKET DEEPING ANGLING, &c.

SIR,—In my report to you of 23rd inst. I think I used the word "Central" Association. If I did, will you please correct to United London Angling, &c., as I find by my card of membership that is the present title to which I intended to refer.—I am, &c., THOS. POOLE.

FISHING AT MARKET DEEPING.

SIR,—I should be much obliged if you or any of your readers can inform me of any jack or perch fishing in the neighbourhood of Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, and, if so, how I can obtain permission.—I am, &c., G. H. [The "Angler's Diary" says there is good coarse fishing free in the Welland at Market Deeping.—ED.]

FISHING AT MARKET DEEPING.

THE RIVER WELLAND—INFORMATION FOR ANGLERS.

For information of London anglers, &c., by kind permission of S. B. Sharpe, Esq., honorary secretary, tickets for fishing can now be obtained of Mr. Charles Thorold, the Ship Inn, St. James Deeping. The tickets are 1s. for the day; 2s. 6d. for three days, or 5s. for the season. A very able and descriptive account of this fishery recently appeared in *Bell's Life*. The Ship (only a beerhouse), a clean, comfortable house; the host and hostess are obliging. It is within 15 minutes' walk of St. James Deeping Station, G.N.R., and can be reached before 8 a.m. by the 5.15 newspaper train from King's Cross (change at Peterborough). Breakfast can be had there, the ticket obtained, and the river reached by nine. There is a train up at 5.45, due at King's Cross at 8. Splendid travelling; so that eight hours can now be had by the river side. It holds among other fish splendid roach (very few bream). This is a place the Central Association of London Anglers would do well to get concession granted to.—St. James Deeping. Beds can be had at the Ship, but it would be well to write first; their charges are very moderate.—I am, &c., THOMAS POOLE.

Covent Garden Market, W.C.,

22nd Sept., 1882.

[Anglers ought to be much obliged to Mr. Poole for this information.—ED.]

TROUT FISHING IN DEVONSHIRE.

SIR,—The readers of the *Fishing Gazette* must think that the Exe is a most wonderful river, from the account given by R. A. in your last week's issue. I

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THE ANGLER'S CURSE.

SIR,—This association (Liverpool Angling Association) has recently acquired the right of fishing in a reservoir near Ruabon, North Wales, which is well stocked with fine trout averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each. Myself and two members were fishing it with the fly on Monday, September 25th, but although the fish were rising all over the pool and almost under our feet not a single one could we stir. I changed my flies time after time, but all to no purpose. I caught several flies that were about, but none of these would move a fish, although I cast, and the others too, over scores of "rises." In one case where a "pounder" was feeding right under my nose, I saw him come up and deliberately eye my artificial, and then quietly turn tail and disappear, although the very next moment he was at it again rising at something on the water, but what not one of us could make out. We only managed to land a 1 lb. 2 oz. fish all day, though there were hundreds of them plunging all about. This experience so exactly corresponds with your remarks under the heading of the "Angler's Curse," that I thought I would send this account to you for publication if you thought it worth the space.—Yours, &c.,
Liverpool. R. WOOLFALL.

THE "ANGLER'S CURSE" ON HAMPSHIRE RIVERS, &c.

SIR,—Concerning the "angler's curse," I had intended to write you precisely what I see your correspondent H. S. H. remarks at p. 473 of the FISHING GAZETTE. The "cuss" that we have been cussed with on the Anton and Te't this past month or two has been a minute brown speck, any imitation of which is hopeless. You speak of having midge flies made on the smallest eyed hooks, but if I mistake not there are none made below the No. 1 size, none so small as the 0 and 00 of other makes. I do not care myself for eyed hooks for the very small flies, but I think for May flies—sedges, the coachman, large palmers, &c.—they are invaluable. It is such a convenience to be able to vary the thickness of gut to suit different times and rivers. With regard to the gut and hair controversy, it has always occurred to me that different people have very varied ideas as to what fine gut is. We continually read of large fish and even salmon (see the Field a week or two since) being taken on "the finest trout cast." Even Mr. Colquhoun, in the "Moor and the Loch," uses the expression, but in these cases I always fancy that the writers mean gut that on Hampshire rivers we should call very coarse. It is rather amusing, by the bye, to see "Herne the Hunter," that astounding son of a still more wonderful father, comparing the wariness of his six-inch trout with that of Hampshire three and four pounders! Your Test correspondent, September 23, speaks of the whole of the past season as having been bad. On the Anton, however, the fishing for the first two months was remarkably good; there was often even more fly than we wanted, and many good bags were made, but for the last three months there has been an almost total absence of fly, and no evening fishing at all. I have not taken a single fish this year with a large evening fly, though the river is full of fish. I send you herewith two or three of the flies which I have used lately, and should be glad to know whether the midge flies you mention in your note, p. 474, are smaller than these; also whether the fine drawn gut which you speak of is finer than the gut of these flies. The fly in the middle is what Mr. Cox, of Winchester, who made them, calls the "little cuss."—B. M.

[The flies B. M. sends are larger than those Mr. Hall sent on his eyed hooks and we should hardly call them midge flies. The spider, for instance, is the size usually fished by experts on the Wharfe. We are much obliged to B. M. for the sample of the "little cuss." It is a first rate pattern. The gut we refer to as the finest drawn gut is certainly finer than that B. M. sends, but then B. M.'s is not drawn gut; we never saw finer whole gut, and would give 16s. or more for 100 lengths of it for minnow-fishing and fly in a big spring water. We will send B. M. Mr. Hall's flies to look at. The eyed hooks are made in 0 and 00 by Messrs. Hutchinson. We are having some made now.—ED.]

HAIR v. GUT.—IN FAVOUR OF HAIR.

SIR—Sarcasms 'aint argument Mr. H. S. H., nor is it quite fair of you to quote a portion only of a certain sentence of mine, when the remainder in a degree alters the meaning of the part you give. Nor are the members of our association only "restrained from a murder of six-inch innocents by a formulated rule of a club." Their sense of what is right would doubtless prompt them to return such undersized trout though the rule were absent. Argue fairly and we will not quarrel; but it is scarcely "good enough" for you to write as you do at the close of your letter last week. What would you say were I to suggest that members of your club were only prevented from stealing silver tea spoons because there is a law prohibiting the legality of such a proceeding? Yet, in a measure, this is similar to what you have done. This though has nothing to do with the matter at issue. This is whether gut or hair is best for trout fishing with fly under certain conditions. I would never be such a fool as to assert that single hair is as a rule strong enough to kill these wonderful "sockdollagers" of the Test we hear so much talk about. Nor, so far as I am aware did Mr. Balderston ever make such a statement. The multiplicity of correspondents, as it were, put words into our mouths. I have a letter from Mr. Balderston, which says his hair is quite strong enough to kill fish of three-quarters of a pound weight. Hair I use is quite strong enough to kill a trout three pounds weight, under favourable conditions. But I would not use hair where there was much likelihood of hooking fish of such dimensions. One correspondent writes I talk of fishing for sea trout with hair, and condemns such a practice. Who, in the name of goodness ever suggested such a thing? I said I had killed sea trout up to a certain weight with hair, and so I have. But I never said I was fishing for them at the time. Trout were what I was after then. This is about a fair sample of the logic one has used against us. Not a word has been said against my arguments in favour of hair. "Ingleborough" writes as though I said gut could not be cast straight. I never said anything of the kind, for I can throw gut as straight as I can hair. The same writer alludes

to hair curling. We have all heard of "curled hair," but all hair is not curled, neither does all hair curl. Any that does this must be discarded, such stuff should never be used. As I have previously written, where trout do not average more than from 8 oz. to 12 oz. each, I am prepared to prove that hair will be more successful in their capture than the finest drawn gut. I am surprised to find amid all this correspondence that no one has offered a single argument against those I advanced a fortnight ago; nor has there been a word forthcoming as to the soft, pulpy condition drawn gut gets into after being used for a few hours. I would be one of the very first to use fine drawn gut could it be procured to sail as well as hair, stand fishing and retain its stiffness as well, and be as free from entanglement when attached to a merry trout. My apologies are due to the "Southern Trout" if I libelled him, and I bend knees with all the abjectness required and in accordance with the penalty imposed for the commitment of so dire an offence. Trout are all brothers though they be from the Test or the Tweed—would that all anglers were the same—and I would as soon libel one of my own spotted fellows from the Kent as I would those from any other stream. And every one should know that I would not do the former. But really so much has been written respecting the obese proportions and gigantic dimensions of these south country trout, and a like amount about the half starved lilliputians of our northern streams, that I need be excused for the unintentional libel. From what I have read and from my own limited experience, I not unnaturally come to the conclusion that trout in rapid streams are more powerful than those in sluggish ones. Nor am I yet convinced of the contrary, for it is but reasonable to suppose that fish living in water so rapid as to make them require an amount of muscular exertion to procure food, are more likely to possess greater strength than fish which reside in spots where there is no current to stem, and where a *dolce far niente* sort of life enables them to wax fat and toothsome. I can quite appreciate the difficulty of keeping a big trout out of a bed of weeds, but if he is a big 'un, and he will go, he will go, despite the strongest drawn gut. The other night I had a $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. grilse on thin gut and a No. 4 hook, Kendal measurement—but not as this is erroneously given both by Francis Francis and Foster. This fish was hooked at dusk right amongst weeds and I landed him safely—but it was as much by good luck as good management. The smallest hooks of the Kendal make are 00, and the higher the number the larger the size. Imagine the effect of doing what one writer tells us, to dress a midge fly on No. 14 hook, Kendal size! Such a hook is used for an ordinary sized salmon fly. I shall be delighted to have from you, Mr. Editor, specimens of the midges you allude to in your note, and if we have any flies for our rivers in Westmoreland which you would like to possess, I will be most happy to return the compliment. Only please do not let your correspondents put a wrong construction upon what one writes. I am perfectly willing to be responsible for what I write and say, but not for what is often said one says and writes. I am, &c.,

SPRINT.

[It is a great pity the hook makers cannot agree to have one uniform list of sizes of hooks instead of the present horrible confusion. "Sprint" considers that his arguments in favour of hair have never been answered. Surely enough has been said in favour of gut! But, perhaps, next spring, on the Eden or Kent we can thrash this matter out; at any rate, there will be no fear that one of us will be rushing about to see if the other is cheating or has taken fish with him to pretend they are fairly caught!—ED.]

HAIR v. GUT FOR BOTTOM FISHING.

SIR,—Some lengthy articles have appeared at different times in the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE, and among the number, a series on "The Theory of Flies." These articles and letters were signed by R. Balderston, "The Raven," &c., and as a sort of a finale to them a challenge was issued, signed by "Herne the Hunter." Now, I read all these articles with a good deal of interest, and somehow or other I could not help thinking that R. Balderston, "The Raven," "Herne the Hunter," &c., were one and the same person. "Verily," said I to myself, after reading the challenge of "Herne the Hunter," and using the words of one of old: "The hands are the hands of Esau, but the voice is the voice of Jacob." It appears now from recent correspondence that I was right in my conjecture as to the authorship of the articles in question.

At the outset, I am not going to say that hair is useless for the purposes of sport. If I lived in the neighbourhood of a water that only contained roach and fish of a similar size, where a half-pounder is a good one, and a pounder met with only very rarely, and after careful trial I found that hair was the best for that place, I should certainly use it. But I have had very considerable experience with both hair and gut; and I found that, generally speaking, hair turned out a delusion and a snare. What may be the merits of hair in fishing a burn or beck, or a small mountain stream (I mean fly-fishing for trout, where the fish run about half a dozen or so to the pound), I cannot say; for I have had no experience in that kind of thing. But I will just look at the question from a plain common sense point of view as a bottom-fisher, and look at the merits and demerits of gut and hair as it would have to be used on the Trent by an ordinary bottom-fisher. When I used to make my bottom tackles for roach out of hair, and use them in paste fishing, I cannot find on reference to my note book that I was more successful than I am now with gut, using them under the same conditions of water, wind, and weather. Indeed, I believe that gut has the decided advantage, both as regards weight and number of roach taken. In the first place I used to find that the hair tackle had a tendency to break close to the shank of the hook, just at the termination of the silk whipping, sometimes before I had it in use five minutes.

In the next place, hair is porous, and is liable to stretch. A pound roach is hooked and landed, the hair tackle is stretched to its utmost tension by the process, and the very next fish you hook, if a tidy sized one—and you play your fish ever so carefully—results in the breakage of the hair and the loss of the fish. I have found it so, and I rather pride myself on my ability to play a fish with a delicate hand. Sometimes it is necessary to fish for roach with a big pelican quill float that will carry a dozen fair sized split shots, for the water may be fourteen feet deep and a moderate stream. You are, we will suppose, fishing from a boat, and your float travels down the stream moderately fast. If you had a light float, with only three or four shots on the tackle, your bait would not reach the bottom until it had got to the extreme end of the swim, even if that same swim was thirty yards long. A heavy float and tackle is necessary under those circumstances in getting your bait to the bottom as quickly as possible. Where would a hair tackle be under those conditions? Why smashed at the very first stroke. You have a lot of line out, your bait is fourteen feet deep, a smart stroke is necessary to fix the hook in the jaw of a fish, and well, in short, hair would not stand it at all; indeed, I have known it necessary to fish for roach with ordinary chub gut under those circumstances, as fine drawn gut would not stand the wear and tear of that work for an hour. Again, you perhaps are fishing for roach with a hair tackle using for bait tail

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R. WOOLFALL.

THE "ANGLER'S CURSE" ON HAMPSHIRE RIVERS, &c.

SIR,—Concerning the "angler's curse," I had intended to write you precisely what I see your correspondent H. S. H. remarks at p. 473 of the FISHING GAZETTE. The "cuss" that we have been cussed with on the Anton and Te t this past month or two has been a minute brown speck, any imitation of which is hopeless. You speak of having midge flies made on the smallest eyed hooks, but if I mistake not there are none made below the No. 1 size, none so small as the o and oo of other makes. I do not care myself for eyed hooks for the very small flies, but I think for May flies—sedges, the coachman, large palmers, &c.—they are invaluable. It is such a convenience to be able to vary the thickness of gut to suit different times and rivers. With regard to the gut and hair controversy, it has always occurred to me that different people have very varied ideas as to what fine gut is. We continually read of large fish and even salmon (see the Field a week or two since) being taken on "the finest trout cast." Even Mr. Colquhoun, in the "Moor and the Loch," uses the expression, but in these cases I always fancy that the writers mean gut that on Hampshire rivers we should call very coarse. It is rather amusing, by the bye, to see "Herne the Hunter," that astounding son of a still more wonderful father, comparing the wariness of his six-inch trout with that of Hampshire three and four pounders! Your Test correspondent, September 23, speaks of the whole of the past season as having been bad. On the Anton, however, the fishing for the first two months was remarkably good; there was often even more fly than we wanted, and many good bags were made, but for the last three months there has been an almost total absence of fly, and no evening fishing at all. I have not taken a single fish this year with a large evening fly, though the river is full of fish. I send you herewith two or three of the flies which I have used lately, and should be glad to know whether the midge flies you mention in your note, p. 474, are smaller than these; also whether the fine drawn gut which you speak of is finer than the gut of these flies. The fly in the middle is what Mr. Cox, of Winchester, who made them, calls the "little cuss."—B.M.

[The flies B. M. sends are larger than those Mr. Hall sent on his eyed hooks and we should hardly call them midge flies. The spider, for instance, is the size usually fished by experts on the Wharfe. We are much obliged to B. M. for the sample of the "little cuss." It is a first rate pattern. The gut we refer to as the finest drawn gut is certainly finer than that B. M. sends, but then B. M.'s is not drawn gut; we never saw finer whole gut, and would give 16s. or more for 100 lengths of it for minnow-fishing and fly in a big spring water. We will send B. M. Mr. Hall's flies to look at. The eyed hooks are made in o and oo by Messrs. Hutchinson. We are having some made now.—ED.]

HAIR v. GUT.—IN FAVOUR OF HAIR.

SIR—Sarcasms 'aint argument Mr. H. S. H., nor is it quite fair of you to quote a portion only of a certain sentence of mine, when the remainder in a degree alters the meaning of the part you give. Nor are the members of our association only "restrained from a murder of six-inch innocents by a formulated rule of a club." Their sense of what is right would doubtless prompt them to return such undersized trout though the rule were absent. Argue fairly and we will not quarrel; but it is scarcely "good enough" for you to write as you do at the close of your letter last week. What would you say were I to suggest that members of your club were only prevented from stealing silver tea spoons because there is a law prohibiting the legality of such a proceeding? Yet, in a measure, this is similar to what you have done. This though has nothing to do with the matter at issue. This is whether gut or hair is best for trout fishing with fly under certain conditions. I would never be such a fool as to assert that single hair is as a rule strong enough to kill these wonderful "sockdollagers" of the Test we hear so much talk about. Nor, so far as I am aware did Mr. Balderston ever make such a statement. The multiplicity of correspondents, as it were, put words into our mouths. I have a letter from Mr. Balderston, which says his hair is quite strong enough to kill fish of three-quarters of a pound weight. Hair I use is quite strong enough to kill a trout three pounds weight, under favourable conditions. But I would not use hair where there was much likelihood of hooking fish of such dimensions. One correspondent writes I talk of fishing for sea trout with hair, and condemns such a practice. Who, in the name of goodness ever suggested such a thing? I said I had killed sea trout up to a certain weight with hair, and so I have. But I never said I was fishing for them at the time. Trout were what I was after then. This is about a fair sample of the logic one has used against us. Not a word has been said against my arguments in favour of hair. "Ingleborough" writes as though I said gut could not be cast straight. I never said anything of the kind, for I can throw gut as straight as I can hair. The same writer alludes

to hair curling. We have all heard of "curled hair," but all hair is not curled, neither does all hair curl. Any that does this must be discarded, such stuff should never be used. As I have previously written, where trout do not average more than from 8 oz. to 12 oz. each, I am prepared to prove that hair will be more successful in their capture than the finest drawn gut. I am surprised to find amid all this correspondence that no one has offered a single argument against those I advanced a fortnight ago; nor has there been a word forthcoming as to the soft, pulpy condition drawn gut gets into after being used for a few hours. I would be one of the very first to use fine drawn gut could it be procured to sail as well as hair, stand fishing and retain its stiffness as well, and be as free from entanglement when attached to a merry trout. My apologies are due to the "Southern Trout" if I libelled him, and I bend knees with all the abjectness required and in accordance with the penalty imposed for the commitment of so dire an offence. Trout are all brothers though they be from the Test or the Tweed—would that all anglers were the same—and I would as soon libel one of my own spotted fellows from the Kent as I would those from any other stream. And every one should know that I would not do the former. But really so much has been written respecting the obese proportions and gigantic dimensions of these south country trout, and a like amount about the half starved lilliputians of our northern streams, that I need be excused for the unintentional libel. From what I have read and from my own limited experience, I not unnaturally come to the conclusion that trout in rapid streams are more powerful than those in sluggish ones. Nor am I yet convinced of the contrary, for it is but reasonable to suppose that fish living in water so rapid as to make them require an amount of muscular exertion to procure food, are more likely to possess greater strength than fish which reside in spots where there is no current to stem, and where a *dolce far niente* sort of life enables them to wax fat and toothsome. I can quite appreciate the difficulty of keeping a big trout out of a bed of weeds, but if he is a big 'un, and he will go, he will go, despite the strongest drawn gut. The other night I had a $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. grilse on thin gut and a No. 4 hook, Kendal measurement—but not as this is erroneously given both by Francis Francis and Foster. This fish was hooked at dusk right amongst weeds and I landed him safely—but it was as much by good luck as good management. The smallest hooks of the Kendal make are o o, and the higher the number the larger the size. Imagine the effect of doing what one writer tells us, to dress a midge fly on No. 14 hook, Kendal size! Such a hook is used for an ordinary sized salmon fly. I shall be delighted to have from you, Mr. Editor, specimens of the midges you allude to in your note, and if we have any flies for our rivers in Westmoreland which you would like to possess, I will be most happy to return the compliment. Only please do not let your correspondents put a wrong construction upon what one writes. I am perfectly willing to be responsible for what I write and say, but not for what is often said one says and writes. I am, &c.,
SPRINT.

[It is a great pity the hook makers cannot agree to have one uniform list of sizes of hooks instead of the present horrible confusion. "Sprint" considers that his arguments in favour of hair have never been answered. Surely enough has been said in favour of gut! But, perhaps, next spring, on the Eden or Kent we can thrash this matter out; at any rate, there will be no fear that one of us will be rushing about to see if the other is cheating or has taken fish with him to pretend they are fairly caught!—ED.]

HAIR v. GUT FOR BOTTOM FISHING.

SIR,—Some lengthy articles have appeared at different times in the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE, and among the number, a series on "The Theory of Flies." These articles and letters were signed by R. Balderston, "The Raven," &c., and as a sort of a finale to them a challenge was issued, signed by "Herne the Hunter." Now, I read all these articles with a good deal of interest, and somehow or other I could not help thinking that R. Balderston, "The Raven," "Herne the Hunter," &c., were one and the same person. "Verily," said I to myself, after reading the challenge of "Herne the Hunter," and using the words of one of old: "The hands are the hands of Esau, but the voice is the voice of Jacob." It appears now from recent correspondence that I was right in my conjecture as to the authorship of the articles in question.

At the outset, I am not going to say that hair is useless for the purposes of sport. If I lived in the neighbourhood of a water that only contained roach and fish of a similar size, where a half-pounder is a good one, and a pounder met with only very rarely, and after careful trial I found that hair was the best for that place, I should certainly use it. But I have had very considerable experience with both hair and gut; and I found that, generally speaking, hair turned out a delusion and a snare. What may be the merits of hair in fishing a burn or beck, or a small mountain stream (I mean fly-fishing for trout, where the fish run about half a dozen or so to the pound), I cannot say; for I have had no experience in that kind of thing. But I will just look at the question from a plain common sense point of view as a bottom-fisher, and look at the merits and demerits of gut and hair as it would have to be used on the Trent by an ordinary bottom-fisher. When I used to make my bottom tackles for roach out of hair, and use them in paste fishing, I cannot find on reference to my note book that I was more successful then than I am now with gut, using them under the same conditions of water, wind, and weather. Indeed, I believe that gut has the decided advantage, both as regards weight and number of roach taken. In the first place I used to find that the hair tackle had a tendency to break close to the shank of the hook, just at the termination of the silk whipping, sometimes before I had it in use five minutes.

In the next place, hair is porous, and is liable to stretch. A pound roach is hooked and landed, the hair tackle is stretched to its utmost tension by the process, and the very next fish you hook, if a tidy sized one—and you play your fish ever so carefully—results in the breakage of the hair and the loss of the fish. I have found it so, and I rather pride myself on my ability to play a fish with a delicate hand. Sometimes it is necessary to fish for roach with a big pelican quill float that will carry a dozen fair sized split shots, for the water may be fourteen feet deep and a moderate stream. You are, we will suppose, fishing from a boat, and your float travels down the stream moderately fast. If you had a light float, with only three or four shots on the tackle, your bait would not reach the bottom until it had got to the extreme end of the swim, even if that same swim was thirty yards long. A heavy float and tackle is necessary under those circumstances in getting your bait to the bottom as quickly as possible. Where would a hair tackle be under those conditions? Why smashed at the very first stroke. You have a lot of line out, your bait is fourteen feet deep, a smart stroke is necessary to fix the hook in the jaw of a fish, and well, in short, hair would not stand it at all; indeed, I have known it necessary to fish for roach with ordinary chub gut under those circumstances, as fine drawn gut would not stand the wear and tear of that work for an hour. Again, you perhaps are fishing for roach with a hair tackle using for bait tail

end of maiden lobworms; and one of those big bream or barbel (for which certain parts of the Trent are so famous) would insist on taking your bait, and with it, of course, your hook and some of the hair tackle, for the chances are against your killing and landing your fish under those circumstances; or, again, you are fishing with gentles or a wasp-grub for roach, and a vigorous chub that had strayed into the swim, attracted by the ground bait, would close his hard leathery jaws on the bait, and the result would be a broken tackle, for nine out of ten hair tackles would not stand the strain, especially if they had been a day in use. Extra fine gut is now made to such perfection that I find no difficulty in killing a three-pound chub with it, when I get hold of one. Hair is a great deal thicker than this fine gut; and this gut does not magnify in the water as some anglers say it does, especially if it is stained a light blue colour. Some of the old fashioned school of anglers still persist in using hair for their bottom tackles for roach fishing, and will not be persuaded to use a gut tackle, be it ever so fine. They have a lively recollection of the gut of their younger days, which was very coarse and very unequal; and so they refuse to keep pace with civilization in its onward strides; indeed, one old angler (who has now gone over to the majority) told me that in his younger days gut was so coarse and bad that he preferred to make his barbel and chub tackles out of copper and brass wire. We know that there are certain of these old school anglers about at the present day. They refuse to listen to the voice of reason, let her talk to them ever so kindly; and I am sadly afraid that some young anglers are following in the footsteps of their elders in this respect. The angler of fifty years ago is not like the angler of to day; then every bit of his tackle from the rod down to the hook was of an unnecessary weight and strength. Now, the angler tries how lightly he really can fish; then an angler, more observant than his brethren, would, perhaps, discard the coarse gut and wire in roach fishing, and use the hair despite its disadvantages; and as time passed on, and improvements came out in gut and hooks, he still stuck to his time-honoured hair, even if he saw anglers using gut doing better than he was with hair. The fine drawn gut of the present day (I mean the very best) is as near perfection as can be, and only half the thickness of hair, with three times its strength. It is much pleasanter to use than hair, for no matter what fish in the ordinary bottom fishers' list you may happen to hook, you stand a good chance of landing him, if you exercise only ordinary care. Taking all things into consideration, after careful practice and observation, I am forced to the conclusion that gut is superior to hair in Trent bottom fishing. I don't want to set myself up as the best bottom fisher out, nor yet as "the son of the best bottom fisher in the world." I only fish for a little amusement during my spare time, being very fond of the study of fish life. I would not recommend anything to anglers that I should not think of using myself; and for ordinary bottom-fishing on the Trent gut is far away before hair; my notebook proves the fact. But I am afraid I am encroaching on too much space, and drawing this letter out to a tiresome length. Just one word about the match between Mr. Marston and Mr. Balderston. I have known Mr. Marston now for some years, and I know him to be incapable of doing the mean tricks that Mr. Balderston would insinuate. I am sorry Mr. Balderston wrote that letter to Mr. Marston after his defeat; it would have been more manly had he acknowledged he had met his superior, or sent an apology after his mind had calmed down, if supposing he wrote the letter in question during a period of mental blindness.—I am, &c.,

THE TRENT OTTER.

THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Enclosed please find copy of a resolution passed at the last quarterly delegate meeting of the Manchester and Districts Amalgamated Anglers' Association, held on Saturday, July 22, 1882, and issued about a week ago to the various clubs. Now, sir, the motion by Mr. Ridgway was made in consequence of a member of the Salford Club having caught a trout in January last and weighed it in for a prize, as the rules of that club allow fish to be weighed in all the year round. I don't know what your London societies would say to a ruling of this sort, but it certainly does seem funny for a large association like ours to say that if one district likes to allow its members to weigh fish in during close time, it may do so, forgetful of the fact that the law prohibits catching them. I hear our district secretary is going to retire from office after November next, for, as he says, he is not going to interfere with the dealers selling fish during close time while the clubs encourage catching them. Hoping you will express your opinion on this matter, I am &c.,

TROUT.

The following is the resolution as moved and seconded and passed:—

"The notice of motion given by Mr. W. R. Ridgway at the last meeting, viz., 'that no club belonging to the association shall be allowed to weigh in salmon, trout, or grayling during the close season,' having been fully discussed, it was proposed by Mr. Cribb, and seconded by Mr. Smith, that each district make their own bye-laws as regards the weighing in of fish caught by their members."

[In our opinion no club or association of clubs ought in any way to countenance the taking and "weighing-in" of fish of any kind when out of season.—ED.]

SALMON FISHING.

SIR,—First let me thank your correspondent, "Silver Grey," for his exceedingly courteous and kindly criticism of my late lucubrations anent salmon, and secondly permit me to ask him whether he has not made a small "boggle"? I have not got a copy of my salmon paper by me, but surely I never put it upon record that "the easier a winch goes the better," and there stop. Was there not some such addenda as, "so long as there is sufficient tension, or resistant power, to the sudden rush of a fish as to obviate overlapping." If not, why then I plead guilty at once to a "big boggle," only adding, as an extenuating circumstance, that I certainly meant there should be.

I fancy I said somewhere in the course of that paper that I did not intend, so far as my gossip went, to purloin any one's ideas and then foist them upon the FISHING GAZETTE readers as my own. I notice that not a few writers upon piscatorial topics do this kind of thing very freely, thus easily earning a spurious reputation among the many, while the few good judges shrug their shoulders, and, like that immortal parrot, say not much perhaps, but think a good deal. Now, practically my personal experience of salmon counts for little in comparison with other branches of the art. More's the shame and pity, but then when people will not write and say, "J. P., old fellow, come and catch a fish," how, in the name of fate, can I help it? Some day—ah, some day—I mean to have a salmon river all to myself, and then I'll only ask "Silver Grey" to come and try his hand. I shall get a rise out of exclusive proprietors then, if I don't out of the fish, always supposing there are any. But, as it won't come

to pass just yet, I must ask "Silver Grey" not to pack up the portmanteau immediately.

Thus, therefore, I left off at the precise point where I felt myself competent to give advice of my own origination. But as to striking? Come now, "When you see the boil and feel the pluck," says Francis Francis, "what then? Why, when you do so you are all right, and may raise your rod smartly and with a fair tug over your shoulder." In this I entirely agree, and, although I have heard good salmon fishers say over their grog o' nights, "You should never strike," I have nevertheless seen them at work the next morning and watched them administer a palpable tug at the instant a salmon turned down with the fly. Then have I said, "Hallo, skipper, how about striking now?" and the answer, in the case of certainly my chief opponent, was, "Oh, that was not striking, man alive; that was simply a draw to drive the hook home." So far as I can see, it was a distinction without a difference. The effect was the same nevertheless, and in a general way, I fancy if anglers would content themselves with a backward draw, instead of an upward and diabolical jerk, there would be fewer fish lost.—I am, &c.,

J. P. WHEELDON.

October 2.

CAPTURE OF A LARGE SALMON WITH ROD AND LINE ON LOCH LOMOND.

SIR,—The following letter may interest your readers:—

Messrs. F. T. Williams and Co. Oct. 1, 1882.

I think it right that I should inform you of my success in catching the largest salmon ever taken out of Loch Lomond with the rod on Thursday last. He was 3 feet 7½ inches in length, and weighed 31 lb. 2 oz. and I was 2 hours and 7 minutes killing him.

I used your 16 feet green heart rod, large reel and line, and one of the salmon casts you sent me in August last. The fly, a sea trout fly, I obtained here.

The boatman's name is John Mac Pherson, and it is rather curious that he was also boatman when the next largest fish in the loch was killed. It was 22 lb.

When the salmon was safely in the boat, the rod had a very bad set, but next day it was all right, and yesterday I fished with it all day, and it is not a whit the worse of the severe test it underwent on Thursday.

Only a really good rod and tackle would have stood the heavy strain of such a fish. In one of his runs he left me only about ten yards of the hundred on my reel, and it was only the good management of the boatman who rowed rapidly, after the fish, that saved a break. For the first half-hour he was very violent, and it taxed all my skill and patience to keep command.—Yours, &c.,

H. MAXWELL.
(We beg to point out that such a practical testimonial as this may go some way to prove that those makers who charge an enormous price for their goods are not the only ones (as some anglers imagine) that can make good rods and tackle.—Yours, &c.,

F. T. WILLIAMS & Co.

10, Great Queen Street.

[It is quite true that while there is no greater mistake an angler can make than to buy cheap tackle merely because it is cheap (i.e., appears cheap), it is equally true that rods equally good in every respect can be had at one place for just half the money charged at another place.—ED.]

CATCHING A WATER-RAT.—THE ALEXANDRA FLY, &c.

SIR,—It may possibly interest your readers to hear of two curious captures I have recently made when angling.

The first was that of a water-rat with the Alexandra. I noticed him swimming down the run I was fishing, which was too heavy for me to see just where my fly was, but did not think he was near the fly till I felt him hooked. After a little play I landed him, and found him hooked in the outside of the upper lip, and the body of the fly bearing marks of his teeth. It may have been an accident only, but I incline to the belief he had snapped at it; whether from curiosity, spite, or appetite I cannot decide. The second was that of a jack of a pound or so, which took the bare hook, a "Francis" snap, just as it was nearing the surface.

He was fairly hooked inside the mouth, and had, no doubt, taken it intentionally. The hooks were not bright, and the hour was dusk of a dark day, so there was no glitter to account for it, and he must have taken it simply because it moved.

With regard to Dr. Brunton's theory that trout take the Alexandra as a fly, they certainly do sometimes seize it at the first fall, with wings expanded, when I think it is taken without reflection as a brilliant fly; but when worked against stream I cannot see for what it can be taken except for a small fish. In fact, I have noticed roach fly in the sunshine whose green backs and silvery bellies have irresistibly reminded me of the appearance of the Alexandra when compressed by the stream.

The way in which trout take it and sometimes follow it for yards, is exactly as they do with a spun minnow.—I am, &c.,

W. T. S.

Bur-lem, September 28.

[We have only once caught a water-rat on a fly line. He swam across the cast, got hooked, and the instant he got to land went two or three feet into some old woodwork at a weir with the line and flies. We have no desire to catch another. Jack will frequently take a big fly such as Alexandra, palmer, coachman, &c. Dr. Brunton often gets them with the Alexandra, so does Mr. Jardine.—ED.]

A BIG PIKE.

SIR,—As an item of fishing news, I beg to inform you that this week my son took a pike out of a private water in Kent, measuring 3 ft. 8 in. in length. It has now gone to be preserved, and I shall be pleased to show it to you or any brother anglers when finished.—I am, &c.,

Sept. 29, 1882.

[What was the weight?—ED.]

W. HOLLINGSWORTH.

THE CATCH OF YARMOUTH HERRINGS.

SIR,—I drove down to the fish wharf this morning, which was indeed a sight, the pavement being covered with baskets of beautiful fish just landed, and the clerk at the wharf kindly informed me that the sale to last night was over 1200 lasts more than in 1881, or 174 millions at 13,200 fish to the last; the catch up to this time being over 4600 lasts.

They have begun in earnest to alter the aquarium at last. There are many visitors remaining, the weather being still so lovely. I often think those who can should stay for this month, the most charming of all.—I am, &c.,

R. R. B. N

SIR,—They refuse from dusk came across a l waiting for a r opposite the F gravel. I thin not improve f insert this in y I am, &c., Brixton.

* SIR,—Will y near here as p and the meeti myself.—I am Victoria, S.

SIR,—Wha length 18½ inc I caught on little over a p in proper seas Fish are ris taken, princip of the day.— [The weigh river it comes &c.), produce four pounds. nearly so thic

The mem last at Maso permanently of the societ Alfred (curat which gave t was warmly congratulat expressed by read his papo clever and a humorous an practical info fine tackle, one afternoo same punt, quantities of but also barb enemies of of men, and swims becam if the artful possessed by circumvent Jardine criti address, no which was r barrelling v eddies, whe with a very and relating considered c and narrated taken as ma not to trust judgment a bers to mov detain them thoroughly as experienc would not c add to their had volunta Hall Tavern Alfred had The vote of suitable res lowing his visitors mer them Mr. C Piscatorial other associ the abolit seemed to chairman, M kindly repl the chairma first song. sant meeti were Messr Callaghan, Ghurney, M (hon. sec.) on Friday n Thames." perch of 2 and Yarmo

A WET DAY'S PIKE-FISHING WITH MR. JARDINE.

BY R. B. MARSTON.

THE opening months of this year have been fatal ones for pike; and I certainly shall always look upon Saturday, the 9th, and Tuesday, the 12th of February, as red-letter days in my angling reminiscences. On the 9th I fished with Mr. Jardine and a young friend, who, under my tuition, has gone "angling mad"—at least, so his mother tells me. On the 12th, I fished with Mr. T. R. Sachs—but I shall refer to this second expedition presently.

In consequence of a letter from Mr. Jardine, asking if I would join him in an "experiment," I found myself with my pupil Jack on the platform of the Great Meridian Railway on Friday evening. Mr. Jardine soon joined us, and after a journey of nearly a hundred miles we were glad to make a substantial tea at the comfortable Linkwater Arms, in Danesbury. The "experiment" was to consist of fishing some water—a fine stretch of river—entirely new to both of us. We knew it contained pike, and that certain monsters had been caught in nets in the same water higher up, and others had smashed the tackle of local anglers in a very contemptuous fashion. We had scarcely finished our meal when in came a gentleman, an artist friend of Mr. Jardine, to invite us to his house to supper, and a very pleasant evening we spent with him looking over his pictures, chatting about the historically-interesting district we were in, and its angling capabilities. It was late before we got back to our quarters, and Jack and I wisely went off to bed, leaving Mr. J. to sit up and "just have a pipe and 'night-cap'" with our host. It must have been a pretty long "night-cap," for when I had been asleep three hours I heard Mr. J. come up to bed, slamming the doors as though they had insulted him.

About nine o'clock next morning, after a six miles' drive through what in summer must be most lovely scenery, we arrived at our starting point for fishing. Mr. Brown, the gentleman who had given the necessary permission, met us at his house and insisted on our partaking of some refreshment. The river winding through the valley just below looked very "fishful," and it was not long before we commenced our experiment. The water was perfectly clear, and what I have christened Mr. Jardine's "Patent Nostrum,"—i.e., a single gut "pater"—with his snap hooks, was the most likely tackle. I rigged Jack out with one, and he had not been fishing five minutes before I heard him cry out that he had a fish. I ran with the gaff, and Jack was soon admiring one of his namesakes, of about four pounds, kicking about at his feet. In the hurry of packing I had omitted to bring a gaff, and we had to trouble Mr. J. for his whenever we got a fish. When I got back to Mr. J., who was fishing a broad, deep hole, he had just "felt" a fish; it was evidently one of his big ones, from the steady, slow, and heavy manner in which it worked about. Suddenly it dashed off, the extremely fine line spun out, and snapped, perhaps 15 yards from the hooks. Our artist friend and myself were apparently much more grieved over the mishap than Mr. J., who attributed it to having trodden on the line and partly severed it. Our genial artist friend has a peculiar method of pike-fishing. When out sketching and in want of a pike to paint from, he puts a dace on a spinning flight, and with 30 or 40 yards of line coiled on his hand and no rod, he generally gets what he wants, and has become so expert that he can pitch his bait within a few feet of any point he aims at up to 30 yards. He then pulls it through the water hand over hand. A gaff completed his outfit. I rigged up a big dace to cast from the reel, and went a field or two higher up to fish a fine and deep pool at the head of the island from which my friends were fishing. In attempting to cast the heavy bait over an alder tree I managed to catch the top bough in such a way that the bait and flight swung round it too many times to count, and there was nothing for it but a steady pull. I was using a fine, undressed, plaited-silk Nottingham line, and was surprised at the amount of pull the line and salmon gut stood. The bough bent like a bow, then something gave, and I felt the lead come thud against my chest with such force that I was very glad it had not struck me in the face. The gut had snapped close to the hooks—probably where it chafed on the bough. Finding the water here too wooded for spinning, I went back to look for my friends, and put on snap tackle. I found Mr. J. had just caught a very handsome fish of 15 lb., and thrown back several small fish. It had been drizzling for some time, and now a perfect deluge of rain came down, mixed with hail, and this lasted the whole of the day. The wind rose and drove the hail like shot into our faces. We fished on down for half a mile without getting anything but small fish, and then we came to a mill, the water below which turned out to be by far the best for fish. At the mill we divided company, Mr. J. going down the left bank and Jack and I the right. Just below the mill-tail I got a 5 lb. fish,

which required the gaff, as there was a fence at the water's edge Mr. J. very kindly threw it across, but not quite far enough, and while Jack was fishing it out I attempted to lift the fish out, when the hold gave way, and I saw him swim a few yards out and rest. I put another bait before him, and he had it instantly, and was soon gaffed. Then Mr. J. got a fish, and the gaff had to go over again. Then I got one which fought like a fifteen-pounder, and the gaff was called for and "dodged" as it whizzed past us on to the grass. I weighed the fish, afterwards at the mill, and was disappointed to find it only went 11 lb.—a more plucky pike I never had hold of. Jack then had a good bit of fun with a fish which had his home under the bank, and which took the bait three times, releasing it just as it was time to use the gaff. But it would occupy too much space to recount all our adventures. In spite of the drenching rain, we enjoyed our sport immensely. Mr. J. got another good fish, of 12 lb. He found the left bank a network of water "grips" which he had to jump or go round, and armed with a perfect *chevaux-de-frise* in the shape of osiers cut off just above the ground. We fished on down for a mile, and then made tracks for the farmhouse. In addition to forgetting the gaff, I had forgotten my mackintosh leggings, and the hiatus between a short waterproof "gossamer" cape and knee boots proved a most unpleasant one. The rain found its way down my legs into the boots, and I looked forward to six hours or more of sitting in enough water to drown a litter of kittens in. Jack was in no better plight. Judge, then, of our delight on reaching our friend's house, to find he had got complete changes of dry clothes warming at the fire for us! and hot grog steaming on the hob. "The unexpected always happens" as Lord Beaconsfield used to say, and certainly this welcome change from dripping garments to dry ones was most unexpected; but this was only part of the unexpected. Mr. Brown insisted on our remaining to take tea with him—a regular farmer's tea it was too;—many a "dinner" have I eaten that would have looked small beside it. I think if Mr. Brown had had his way, we should be sitting in his cosy dining-room now; for, tea disposed of, we all settled down to cigars and whisky—when I say all, I must except Jack and our host's very charming daughter. Jack, like a wise boy, does not yet smoke or drink whisky, and I need hardly say Miss Brown did not assist us farther than by liberally dispensing those luxuries to tired-out anglers. But the example of Her Majesty is one we Britons always feel proud in following; and I see from the Queen's New Book that, when present at a Highland christening, Her Majesty says, "I thought it most appropriate, touching, and impressive. I gave my present (a silver mug) to the father, kissed the little baby, and then we all drank to its health and that of its mother in whisky, which was handed round with cakes." Shure now, if yer Majesty would only go to Ould Oireland occasionally, and take a drap o' the crater at an Irish christening, it would do more to bring back Irish loyalty than all the bayonets and buckshots together!

Seeing a piano in the room, I ventured to ask Miss Brown if she would not favour us with a little music,—fully expecting—no not fully expecting, for Miss B. caught a 3 lb. grayling last summer,—that the piano would require tuning. "If it will give any pleasure, I will do so," very unaffectedly said, naturally elicited our thanks, and, while our smoke went up, and our whisky went down, we listened to some of Beethoven's choicest pieces most admirably rendered. Then our artist friend, who had "run for shelter" long before we did, asked for a song, and a duet from Miss Brown and Mr. Jardine terminated our most pleasant visit to Mr. Brown. May we all tumble upon such a hospitable reception after a long wet day's fishing!

We were loth to leave; but time and the last train wait for no man, so with many hearty thanks to our host and his accomplished daughter, we packed up our traps and returned to Danesbury. Our catch was not a very great one; but considering the day, and that we fished a new water, and had to find out the feeding places, we were perfectly satisfied with about 70 lb. of fish, the four best going 9 lb., 11 lb., 12 lb., and 15 lb. "Honours equally divided," Mr. Jardine was kind enough to put it, though he got the two best fish. Jack will long remember our "wet day with Mr. Jardine," and so shall I.

A FINE DAY'S PIKE-FISHING WITH MR. SACHS.

THE heavy rains of Saturday and Sunday made me feel sure, when I got a letter from Mr. T. R. Sachs, asking me to join him in a trip to a "big" pike water, that it would be useless, and I telegraphed to ask him to put it off. But this only had the effect of bringing Mr. S. round in post haste to say the water he had in view "never got thick"—well, "hardly ever"—even after weeks of rain. He had got the "permit" especially to take me, and go I must. This was on Monday, at two o'clock, in London. I had left my rods and tackle at home; but his assurance that the

the appearance of the water, for it could not possibly be in a better condition than at present time. Anglers are now bestirring themselves and several have been out and have been rewarded with good baskets. Roach, perch, and pike have been well on the feed. Capt. James, of Geldeston, in four days fishing for pike between Dumburgh and the Lochs, succeeded in landing 22 fish, weighing from 3 to 4 lbs. Mark Mil has also had several fish, one turning scale at 6½ lbs. Mr. Alfred Darby, of yacht *Fyona*, on Friday last some good pike. Mr. A. Algar, one of 4 lbs., and 27 roach weighing one stone. This was a splendid catch, some of them scaling 1 lb. and upwards. Mr. W. Oldham, on Friday, had a good basket of roach, several nice fish amongst them. It is worthy of note that from Christmas to present time, the number of pike caught which have come to my knowledge nearly approach 100, letting alone those that I have not heard anything of. Wind in south-west; prospects for next week are A1.—A WAVENEY ANGLER.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

The old adage, "February fill dyke," most certainly did not apply to that month in the present year; but March, apparently, is going to make up for the deficiency, as we have had two or three days of very stormy weather this week, and at the time of writing (Wednesday night) the river is very high. Nothing has been done in the way of trout fishing so far, but I hope before long to be able to chronicle some good takes both on the Otley Club water and elsewhere. Possibly towards the end of this week anglers may meet with better success, as the weather appears more settled, and the atmosphere is considerably warmer.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

Wye and Derwent.

On Monday last there was a very great quantity of snow fell all over Derbyshire, then again on Tuesday we had a thorough wet day, which caused both the Wye and Derwent to have flushes on them of about 3 feet high, which quite put a stop to angling till to-day (Thursday), when there has been a fair quantity of fishermen out on the Derwent trying their skill, with worms for bait; but I am sorry to say very poor sport has been had, owing to the "snow broth" being in the water. Fish scarcely ever feed well on the Derbyshire rivers while there is "snow broth" in the water; either at top or bottom, the Derwent ought to be all right for the worm by Monday. There will be no fly-fishing on either river for the next week. Weather very mild.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yare (Norwich).

The past week, as far as I can ascertain, has not been a good one for the jack fisherman; this stream has been extremely low and very clear, which somewhat accounts for the failure of those who have tried their luck. I was out with a party of friends last Saturday at one of our most likely spots, yet all we succeeded in accomplishing was landing 3 small jack, 2 of which were promptly returned to their natural element with the hope that they may afford sport when they are further nourished. The water was so clear that we could see the jack lying about, and on several occasions cast our tempting lure in the midst of two or three who eyed it for a moment, and then sailed disdainfully away to a quiet retreat among the weeds (having, as I fully believe, been watching us and our efforts.) In private water some good sport has been again experienced, one party, on Tuesday last, landing, or rather getting into the boat, 13 handsome fish, several weighing 10 lb. to 12 lb. The deep waters are the most likely spots, while the water is so clear, although the fish are very forward, and are drawing up the dykes and shallows. A few days more and we hereabouts shall finish for this season.—ROBERT MOLL.

Yore (Hawes).

Several fair baskets were made yesterday (Tuesday). I hear of a fish of 1½ lb. being landed. I got six, about 1½ lb., and a neighbour ten, weighing about 1½ lb. the lot. We are covered with snow, consequently any fresher will be both pure and simple. The little white worm, well scoured, is the best bait at present. My GAZETTE miscarried last week, but the wrapper landed all right, so I do not know if anything more has been said on the salmon in trout streams question.—JOS. CORRY.

NOTICES OF FLIES, &c.

FLIES FOR THE TEME.

MR. T. B. HODGES, of 13, Raven Street, Ludlow, writes:—

"SIR,—I send you a sample of my flies, hoping you will like them. I was by the river Teme to-day (Tuesday, February 26), and was rather surprised to see the March brown on quite strong. While I was by the water I saw three trout, about ¾ lb. each, killed with the 'claret body.' The fish came on about one o'clock. I inclose a few natural March browns."

This is certainly a very extraordinary spring; the newspapers are full of accounts of how this, that, and the other has put in an appearance long before it was due; and here we have the March brown, which is often more an April than a March fly, out weeks before its time. So much the better, for the trout will get into condition all the sooner. Some of these natural samples have the eggs attached still, and all are rather darker than Ronald's coloured imitation, in his delightful "Fly-fisher's Entomology." The samples of artificial flies which Mr. Hodges sends are nicely-tied old friends, such as blue and yellow duns, red tag, coch-y-bondhu, coachman, &c. We should feel every confidence in getting a dish of fish with a cast made up from them, only we should ask Mr. H. to put them on gossamer drawn gut, and on black and not steel-blue hooks. Of course, early in the season, with high water, fine gut is not so necessary as later on; but even then it will kill two to one as against coarse gut, and the best fish, too.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We shall be extremely obliged to any of our readers who will send us by post, in strong cardboard boxes, specimens of any flies they may meet with at the river side. With the exception of an occasional stray blue-bottle, which settles itself in the sun outside our office window, we do not get many chances of seeing the natural insects in the neighbourhood of Fleet Street.

GUT CASTS AND GUT TRACES.

Mr. Bullmer, of 62, Wandsworth Road, London, is the maker of the Gossamer gut casting lines we have now used for many seasons in trout-fishing with the utmost satisfaction. It is the greatest pleasure to us, after recommending a thing, to find anglers writing to endorse our opinion of it. Many have done so in the case of these beautifully-fine lines, including Mr. H. S. Hall, one of the best trout anglers and amateur fly-dressers living. A few years ago it would have been quite impossible for the sum of 8d. to obtain three yards of most carefully-tied, delicate, spider-web-like gut, stained any colour desired, and we always consider Mr. Bullmer has conferred a boon upon fly-fishers by this speciality of his. It is true we have heard complaints about them, complaints which we consider the best compliments they could have—viz., that they are "too fine!" To meet the requirements of these critics, Mr. B. has brought out recently a "tapered Gossamer," which we can strongly recommend, as a tapered line, whether winch line or casting line, always stretches out over the water better—casts better, in fact. He also sells "fine" and "extra fine" lines. As these latter will easily kill a 2 lb. trout, and with a little delicate handling a much heavier fish, we rarely use anything else. If the angler using one of these collars strikes from the winch as we have so often recommended, there is no fear of breakage in the strike. This cannot be done with a check-winch unless the check is extremely light. Mr. Slater (of Newark's) combination winch, with silent check, which can be regulated to any "pull," answers admirably; and Mr. Reuben Heaton, of Birmingham, showed us the other day the pattern of a winch he has patented, which we like exceedingly, and shall describe shortly.

Mr. Bullmer sends us some samples of single and twisted gut traces, which we like very much indeed—just the things for Mr. Jardine's "patent nostrum," or for salmon-fishing. What we like about Mr. B.'s things is that they always show a very careful attention to details. Good gut is often spoiled by clumsy knots and whipping; but this is not the case with Mr. B.'s work. It is more than probable we shall get some remonstrances from certain tackle-makers because we have seen fit to speak of Mr. Bullmer's goods as we find them. We frequently get hints after we have noticed a thing that it is "unfair" to "puff" so-and-so. Those who write in this way forget two things—first, that the interests of our readers are our chief concern; and secondly, that we are always perfectly ready to notice anything really good which they like to send. Let them compare anything we speak well of in price and quality with what they supply, and then send theirs to us, and if we find them as good nothing will prevent our saying so. We should have thought it unnecessary to make these remarks, but for the fact that our experience of some fishing-tackle makers has proved how extremely jealous they are. We say "some," because there are many who are not so short-sighted as to see no merit in anything but their own goods. Another thing we would venture to point out, and we name no names—that is, that anglers who go into a shop to buy goods confer a favour by doing so. Some tackle-makers seem to be under the delusion that to serve a customer is an act of condescension on their part, and that a "take-it-or-leave-it-and-go-to-the-devil" kind of manner is business! The anglers who stand this kind of thing are very poor creatures, in our opinion. Unfortunately, there are too many of them. We have seen anglers come into a shop and ask for something or other. "What's for you?" in a snap-your-nose-off tone. The request is repeated; something at hap-hazard is banged down in front of the offender, who, after vainly trying to get what he wants, suggests there must be a mistake; then after some perfectly gratuitous—but none the less snappish—advice from a party, who probably never caught a fish in his life, the discomfited angler departs with something he never intended to buy, and may never use. But he also departs with something else, and that is disgust; and if he does not select a more courteous tackle-maker next time—well he deserves incivility. On the other hand, it is quite a pleasure to go into some shops. Anglers hate servility quite as much as they appreciate civility; and, fortunately, very many of our English, Scotch, and Irish fishing-tackle firms understand this so well as to make not only customers but friends. We naturally come into contact with a great number of anglers, and often think if "so-and-so" could hear how he is spoken of, how encouraged he would be; or if so-and-so could hear what is said of him, how much good it might do him!

FLOATING FLIES ON EYED-HOOKS.

SIR,—Some time ago (in August, 1882), in response to a request in the *Field*, I described the method I employ in tying small flies on eyed-hooks. A few months later, I was requested to reprint these hints in the *FISHING GAZETTE*, and they appeared on November 25th. In previous numbers of the *Field* reference had been made to the great value of eyed-hooks for fine and delicate fishing in windy weather, but it was remarked by the writer (Mr. Francis) that they did not make quite so neat a fly, and that there was a tendency for the eye to get choked up with feather, silk, or varnish. The method I use obviates all this, as my description of November 25th, 1882, clearly shows. The wings sit well up, the body tapers naturally, the hackle is wound on last, as it should be undoubtedly for a floating fly, the tying off is done behind the wing, and the eye is left clean and clear.

I have had no reason to alter my opinion since I wrote the letters I am referring to, and I am ready to endorse every word I then wrote, while my own conviction has been strengthened again and again by the unqualified approval of a large number of the most celebrated anglers and amateur fly-tiers.

I do not wish for a moment to disparage the wonderfully neat and pretty flies sold by some of the best makers, but it must be a matter of common experience that by many tiers a tiny dun, which is neat and effective when tied to gut in the old way, becomes a somewhat clumsy, ugly thing, with a large, unwieldy head, when tied on an eyed-hook of the same size.

Until it is recognised that some such method as that advocated by me must be adopted for small duns on eyed-hooks, we shall continue to have the eyes closed up with feather and shellac varnish, and our cocky little olives and iron blues will be tied with wings sloping back over the body in a manner at once unnatural and unsuitable for a floating fly.

During the correspondence on flies, amateur and professional, which was carried on in the *FISHING GAZETTE* two or three months ago, I had several letters addressed to me by strangers in different places, asking for a loan of a few flies. One of these was a man of twenty years' experience as a practical fly-fisher and fly-maker, and he was so much pleased with my patterns and suggestions that he resolved to abandon his own long-established habits and system and take to mine, which he recognised as superior to all his former notions. He immediately began to practise, avowing his intention of tying flies solely on eyed hooks, and carrying out my instructions to the letter unless otherwise requested. He has had a good many patterns from me during the last two months, and has copied them, and sent his attempts for my criticism and suggestions, and the result is that he now turns out a floating fly which it would be very difficult to beat. I have sent samples of his handiwork to a few of my own intimate friends, and he has had some very large orders already. Altogether he has tied about 150 dozen choice flies in the last three or four weeks, and now that the season is getting on, as I never make any secrets in angling matters, I think there may be some anglers who will be glad to hear of him, and give his flies a trial. If so, let them write without delay to Mr. George Holland, 4, Cook Street, Fallowfield, near Manchester, and inclose stamps for a sample half-dozen. His terms are 2s. a dozen for hackle flies, 2s. 6d. for winged flies, and 5s. a dozen for flies with semi detached bodies, most delicately made of indiarubber or horsehair. With regard to this last class of flies, I may say that I have tied and used them most successfully for several years, having been put up to them in the first instance by Mr. A'dam when his beautiful book came out six or seven years ago.

There is absolutely no advantage whatever in the detached body, except in so far as it is semi-transparent and life-like, and it is only for a few delicate ephemerals that I ever adopt this style of tying, and these are invaluable, and have brought true sport again and again when all else failed. But they *must be true to nature* or they are worthless, and I mention this because since I drew attention to these flies in the *FISHING GAZETTE* some time ago, several tiers have been trying their hands upon them, and in some cases they are advertising and selling (or rather attempting to sell, for the sale is not likely to be large) as "detached bodied duns" flies of the rudest manufacture, which bear very slight resemblance to the natural insects they are intended to imitate.

I don't think this fault will be found with Mr. Holland's flies; some of the latest seem to be most skilfully made, and, in my opinion, they far surpass any of this class that have ever been offered for sale. It must be remembered that the flies are all made with folded and divided wings, as described in my letter of Nov. 25th, 1882, though anyone who stipulates for a neat undivided plume in each wing can possibly get it for the asking. At the same time, I repeat what I have written again and again, that the fly which kills best is that which fishes best, and which is not spoilt and knocked out of shape by half-an-hour's soaking. If a fly floats as well, looks as well, and kills as well after a couple of days' use as it does when it is put on new, it has merits which will be recognised by all anglers of any experience. I have frequently proved that flies of mine have these merits, and I have reason to believe that Mr. Holland's will possess them in an equal degree.

In conclusion, I have only to suggest that anglers should not expect to get their flies by next post; indeed, they should give plenty of time, as one pair of hands cannot keep pace with orders coming in fast, especially as Mr. Holland has to give some attention to another trade besides fly-making. Just now he is as busy as he can be; but, as he has a good selection of all the best Hampshire patterns to work from, another season he will have turned the winter months to account, and will have in stock all the standard spring flies in readiness when the orders begin to come in.—I am, &c., H. S. HALL.

P. S.—I have had five dozen flies tied to my patterns, and they are first-rate. When I wrote the above notice of Mr. Holland's flies some weeks ago, I had no idea that any one else was in the field. Mrs. Cox, of Winchester, has, with her usual enterprise, recognised that by supplying flies tied on the principles advocated by me she will meet a very general want, and she has just forwarded me some patterns which, in common fairness, I feel bound to notice without delay. Mrs. Cox's people are new to this style, but they will not be long before they pick it up and master it. Henceforth Mr. Holland and Mrs. Cox will be formidable rivals; but there is room for both, and I wish them both the success they deserve.

Tuesday, March 18.

[Our fly-fishing readers will remember how we have frequently said, when noticing specimens of Mr. H. S. Hall's own amateur work in fly-making, that we wished he was a professional, and sold such flies. We were, therefore, glad to find that the correspondence about flies which appeared in this paper brought Mr. Hall in contact with a professional fly-maker, who was willing to admit that the amateur could beat professional in this case, and who has wisely taken lessons from the amateur. Mr. Hall sent us a few samples of Holland's work recently, and we immediately ordered several dozens on eyed-hooks. Mr. H. will certainly have to give up his "other business," i.e., if he makes up his mind not to send out a single fly which he would not care to send to Mr. Hall; in fact, he should remember the time, trouble, and pains Mr. Hall has been to in teaching him,

and that, to a certain extent, every fly he sells may be said to be "Hall" marked, and he (Mr. Holland) must keep up to this high standard. We must thank Mr. Hall for the great benefits he has so liberally given to fly-fishers. In the present number he has given, at our suggestion, an excellent description of some leading chalk stream flies, and how to dress them.—ED.]

"I. C. U." AND THE "OLD RIVER."

SIR,—I see, in last week's issue of your valuable paper, Captain Etheridge appears to doubt the fact of the old river, or fleet, being netted or poached. I have fished the stretch of water for years, and have repeatedly seen an old punt chained to a tree, up a ditch running from the railway line into the Thames. I have often thought it belonged to someone who did a little fishing on the quiet at night; for, although I kept my punt near the spot for nearly three years, I never saw anyone using the old one, but often saw signs of its having been used.

I was fishing close to this particular ditch, some months since. It was just getting dusk, when three men came towards me, carrying a large basket; they did not appear to see me until close, when they turned away and walked down stream. Soon I heard sounds of night lines being thrown in. I kept watch and saw I was not mistaken; the men were poachers, and their business just then was laying night lines.

When I arrived in London I at once wrote to the secretary of the Windsor and Eton Angling Association, telling him what I had seen, and he wrote me in answer to the effect that "this society were about to make a special attempt to catch the poachers who infested the Old Fleet. The keeper Gray went in fear of them, they having threatened him several times."

This stretch of water should be one of the best in the Thames, for an angler's greatest curse, a steam launch, is never seen there.—I am, &c., T. HOOK.

NOT THE "ONLY EEL POUT."

SIR,—In your issue of March 8 I notice a letter from one of your correspondents (Mr. H. G. Merlin), who states the only "Eel Pout" or "Burbot" in the late International Fisheries Exhibition was exhibited by Mr. Howlett, of Newmarket. If Mr. Merlin will refer to No. 862, page 174, in the Catalogue, he will find there was another specimen of this class of fish exhibited by me, and that it was a quarter of a pound heavier than that of Mr. Howlett's, but unfortunately was put in a corner and not seen to advantage.—I am, &c., W. FOOR.

Waterside North, Lincoln, March 13.

FISHING NEAR PARIS.

SIR,—I wrote to you some time since a letter requesting your favour with regard to fishing within a short distance of Paris, and any information you could supply me with through medium of *GAZETTE*, which I am in the habit of having sent me.

Three numbers of the paper have appeared since the communication referred to, and I have not found the slightest notice bearing on it. As the letter has not been returned, I conclude it has reached you, and the treatment appears somewhat discourteous; but from what I have heard of you from some of your personal acquaintances, I do not believe you would willingly be discourteous. My letter may have appeared frivolous, but I wish to obtain information, if possible, from some who have fished near here. The "Anglers' Diary" gives something—but I wished for more, and thought the *GAZETTE* was the correct medium for me to apply to.—I am, &c., H. A.

Grand Hotel de Tours, Rue Jacob, Quartier Latin, Paris.

March 10.

[We can assure Mr. Arnold that we not only received his request, but are endeavouring to obtain information for him. The delay in the appearance of the "Anglers' Diary" for 1884, in which we thought there might be further information, caused us to keep the query back. However, it appears there is nothing new about France in this edition to help our correspondent. If any of our readers know anything of the fishing within ten or twenty miles of Paris we trust they will kindly inform us. P.S.—We are since informed by a correspondent we had applied to in Paris that the most likely person to give information is M. Carbonnier, 20, Quai du Louvre. M. C. is a fish breeder, &c., and is likely to know many anglers.—ED.]

BLOATERS.

SIR,—Will you or any readers of the *FISHING GAZETTE* be kind enough to inform me whether Yarmouth bloaters are white herrings before they are cured? If not, what kind of fish are they?

Some are called "ham-cured," and some "half-cured." Could you inform me how they are cured. If not, can you inform me where I may get the information from?—I am, &c., BLOATER.

Duffield, near Derby.

[The bloater is a cured herring. Will see if we can find some recipes.—ED.]

THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Those who are interested in fish culture will be glad to read the notice which appeared in your paper on the 16th ult. with respect to the arrangement between the Council of the Health Exhibition and the National Fish Culture Association being intended for the proper management of the Fisheries Aquarium during the forthcoming exhibition, and for the contemplated experiments on the important subject of fish culture. As this can be a temporary arrangement only, terminating at the expiration of the exhibition itself, it would be beneficial if the aquarium could eventually remain permanently attached to the Buckland Museum. This might be, as the writer before stated in your paper, considerably enlarged, and thus, with the co-operation of the National Fish Culture Association, made what it should be—an excellent school of instruction for the improvement and development of our extensive and valuable inland and sea fisheries, and become an institution worthy of a nation whose fishing industries probably give employment to more people and return a larger income than any of a similar description in the world. The late Fishery Exhibition displayed on a larger scale what the Buckland Museum should become, consistently with the lesser area that must necessarily be allotted to it. All the latest inventions and appliances connected with fishing gear, and the improvement and protection of fisheries, should be exhibited in such a museum with all the best and most approved methods of fish culture that can conveniently be carried on there. Observations made and noted might be kept of the best and most economical methods of feeding and rearing all kinds of fish suitable for and capable of artificial cultivation. The general opinion being that most of the

NOTICES OF FLIES, &c.

NOTES ON FLIES FOR CHALK STREAMS.

LAST spring, when I endeavoured to give a description of fishing in chalk streams, I was told that I had made a grave omission in not giving full hints and details about the favourite flies. For my own part, I think such items would have been out of place in the articles referred to; but, as I have frequently been urged during the last few months to describe the most useful flies and the way to dress them, I venture to offer the following notes, not intending them to be in any way exhaustive, but sufficient, I hope, to guide one who is strange to Hampshire, and to enable him to equip himself with such flies as most Southern anglers consider necessary. With regard to a general *modus operandi* of fly-making I have little to say here. I still abide by my opinions expressed in a letter on fly-tying in the GAZETTE of November 25th, 1882; and, although the method there described was intended for flies of the ephemeral class, I often tie the sedge, cinnamon, and other flat-winged flies in this manner. I know that some anglers will dissent from this, saying that the Phryganidæ have their wings sloping on the back, and that we cannot improve on nature. But the fact is, the best flies are those which float best, and my experience leads me to think that a sedge tied with wings set up is more buoyant and fishes better than one dressed more closely in imitation of the natural insect. I cannot believe that a trout takes notice of the slope of a fly's wings; and the sedge, bushy with hackle and upright wings, floating dry over a rising fish, is far more likely to be successful than the most natural-looking specimen, which declines to float except in a sodden and half-submerged state. Moreover, the Phryganidæ on the water are not quiescent like the duns—they flutter and caper about a good deal; and this is another reason why, in my opinion, the flat-winged artificial is not always a better killer because it is true to nature, the outstanding hackle and wings being perhaps the best representation we can give of that fluttering motion.

The best of all flies for a chalk stream is the olive dun. Perhaps I should say "the olives," as a class subject to considerable variation in size and colour, which may be used, to some extent, every day of the season. When I first knew Hampshire, the olive dun was a silk-bodied fly, with or without gold rib or gold tag, but recently quill bodies have come into favour and supplanted the silk. There are so many good patterns, that I think it will be well to give a few in full, with numbers; and, for convenience of reference, I give details in a tabulated form. I refer to eyed-hooks in all cases.

I.—OLIVE DUN.

Hook, o and oo.

- (1) Body: olive silk. I know nothing better than Mr. Aldam's "gosling green," but it wants most delicate handling, and great care should be taken not to have too much wax on the tying silk, or it will darken the floss and spoil the fly. A ribbing of fine gold wire is an improvement.

Wings: dark starling.

Legs and whisks: hackle stained olive—not too yellow, but a dull-brown olive.

- (2) Body: quill dyed olive, with or without gold tag. Wings and hackle as before. This pattern admits of several shades, and is, perhaps, the best all-round pattern that can possibly be used in Hampshire, from one end of the season to the other. It is always worth a trial. It is sold in thousands, and slays its thousands every year.

- (3) The same pattern as the last, with light brown fibres of hare's fur tied in for legs. Very good in April, and an excellent floater.

- (4) Body: leveret's fur dyed olive, ribbed with gold wire. Hackle and wings as before. This is known as the "rough spring olive." A useful variety.

- (5) THE INDIARUBBER BODIED OLIVE DUN.—I put this last, because it is a fly which hitherto has not been accessible to all; indeed, I am not sure that it has been made for sale at all before this season, and I have only seen it in use among a few of my friends who got their patterns either from me, or Mr. Marryat, of Winchester celebrity. These detached bodied duns were described by me in the GAZETTE of March 3rd, 1883, and I there stated that the notion of indiarubber was suggested by a friend. Mr. Marryat was, I believe, the first to use rubber in this way, while I was the first to make trial of the flies, and prove their value. We had both used horsehair bodies with success at different times, while Mr. Aldam's delicate horsehair patterns did execution years before I ever tied a fly. But for the early April

olive, I prefer the rubber detached bodied pattern to any other. I shall never forget April 17th, 1882, on the Winnal Club water, when, after trying the usual favourites in vain over several rising fish, I put on the new pattern and hooked nine fish very quickly on a short length of water. The fly is made lighter or darker according to the colour of the rubber; and wings and hackle must be chosen to match the body. The hackle should be of a brownish olive to harmonise with the body, which, when held up to the light, has a translucent appearance, as like to the body of a natural dun as it is possible to obtain. It is only in the early spring that I ever do much with this fly, and then I use it on a No. o hook. It is extremely difficult to tie it small and delicate enough for summer use, but I have killed with it in August on a 000, the smallest size made. For late summer and autumn I generally adopt horsehair bodies, as the hair can be dyed different shades, and can be used of a pale watery hue which cannot be got in indiarubber. I am never without a few of these detached bodied duns, and they have again and again procured me sport when all else failed; but it must be distinctly understood that they are only killing because of their close resemblance in colour and transparency to the natural insect. Some people seem to think that it is the detached projecting body which makes the fly attractive, and so they tie detached bodies of quill and silk, which are, of course, dull and opaque, and very inferior to hair or rubber. In fact, I consider it is labour wasted to tie detached bodies except of translucent material; and if silk or quill be used, it is far better to use it on the hook in the ordinary way. I make one exception in favour of some Indian yellows Mrs. Cox had made by Mr. Aldam's instructions. No other silk detached bodies I have ever seen are worth a rush.

II.—HARE'S EAR.

Hook, o or oo.

- (1) Body: hare's fur ribbed with gold, and fibres picked out for legs, winged with dark starling. This fly is a great favourite on the Test. I prefer a smoother-bodied fly, as—
- (2) Body: yellow silk, slightly waxed. Hare's fur tied in at shoulder for legs. Wings as before.

III.—THE RED QUILL, GREY QUILL, AND GINGER QUILL.

Hook, o or oo, usually the smaller size.

These flies are always useful, and they only differ in the colour of the hackle and whisks, though there is room for variety, if it be desirable, in the choice of quill. The red one has—

Body: undyed quill.

Legs and whisks: red hackle.

Wings: darkish starling. The grey and ginger are generally dressed with lighter wings.

IV.—THE "LITTLE MARRYAT."

This fly is well known at Winchester, and its name explains its origin. It is chiefly useful dressed small from May to September; but I remember fishing on the Itchen one bright day in April when a pattern on a No. o accounted for seven brace of trout to Mr. Marryat's rod, while I was trying other flies without success. This is the dressing:

Body: very pale buff opossum fur spun on light yellow silk.

Wings: medium starling.

Legs and whisks: the palest feather from a buff Cochin China cockerel.

V.—THE IRON BLUE.

This fly comes out thick on some parts of the Test; it is less common on the Itchen, and in some places it is rarely seen at all. When it does come out the fish generally refuse everything else. It varies a good deal in colour, but I believe the best general dressing to be:

Body: quill, either peacock or condor (if it can be got), dyed a dark blue with a violet shade. Some prefer mauve silk with mole's fur.

Legs and whisks: dark honey dun, the natural fly having yellow tips to its dusky blue legs.

Wings: from the breast of a water hen, or from the tail feather of the greater titmouse.

VI.—THE RED-SPINNER.

On a warm, sunny April day this fly is useful in the late afternoon and early evening. The best pattern I know is as follows:

Body: quill dyed in Judson's light brown.

Wings: two hackle points chosen from bright, shiny cock's feather with golden tips.

Legs and whisks : a red hackle (not very bright), with a black central rib. The natural fly has a thick shoulder and thorax which is unmistakably black. Hook o and oo.

There is another spinner often useful. We call it the white-tailed spinner. I am not sure whether it is a distinct fly from that last named or not. I am inclined to think it is the olive dun when it first changes its coat. Its prevailing colour is a subdued darkish olive with a black thorax. The legs of a neutral tint corresponding to the shade of the body, while the whisks are white, and there is a white spot at the extreme tip of the body.

A suitable quill may be found by taking one of the lower fibres from the long tail feather of a peacock. Wind it on so as to show two turns of white on the tailend of the hook.

VII.—THE BADGER QUILL.

This, I believe, represents the white-tailed spinner; but as it is the only fly dressed buzz, I give it a separate notice.

Body : greenish olive quill with a couple of white turns at the tail.

Legs and wings : a badger hackle—that is to say, a hackle with rusty grey centre and bright, shining yellowish grey points. The feathers are not easy to get. It does well also with a quill body dyed in Judson's light red.

Hook, o and oo.

VIII.—THE WICKHAM'S FANCY.

This fly is now so well known that it hardly needs description. I consider it the best of all fancy flies, and it should be kept in several sizes from oo to 1 or 2. Whenever the fly is scanty or uncertain the Wickham is useful; if a stubborn old trout has refused all your delicate duns and spinners, try a Wickham; and in rough, wet weather, when dry fly fishing is hopeless, the attractive Wickham is sometimes capable of digging up a few trout from the weedy depths when they can be tempted by nothing else. It should be made as follows :

Body : gold tinsel ribbed from tail to head with red cock's hackle.

Wings : dark starling. Landrail makes a nice variety.

H. S. HALL.

(To be continued.)

THE "PREMIER" SPINNER.

MR. JAMES OGDEN, of 28, Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham, sends us samples of his new "Premier Spinner," made in several sizes—the largest for pike and salmon, the others for trout and perch. The name of the artificial spinning bait is "Legion," and when we say that we think this new one will take its place among the limited few which are really good for anything, we make a rather bold statement. It is a good heavy bait, and spins from the tail by a new arrangement. Mr. Ogden says :—"I am daily receiving most favourable reports of its success; I certainly never saw its equal to spin. I have tried it several times, and have now every confidence in saying that I never used a spinner with better results. I find it impossible for the fish to strike it without getting hooked." It is a bait we can confidently recommend, and would only suggest to Mr. Ogden that, in addition to the silver and gold-coloured bodies, he should have one with an olive-brown back and milk-white belly—like a minnow or fry, in fact.

A NEW "STRIKE FROM THE WINCH" REEL.

Mr. Reuben Heaton, wholesale maker of reels of all kinds at 161 to 165, Hospital Street, Birmingham, is an old reader of the FISHING GAZETTE, and seeing that we had often lamented the want of a silent check winch which could be regulated to any degree of pull, he set about to make one, and called on us the other day with a sample of it. It is just the very thing we asked for for fly fishing for trout, as you can easily so "set" the action as to get as much or as little silent check as you want. We have made silent checks of our own at various times, and seen others; but this one (patented) is by far the best, because most simple of all—no springs to get out of order, and no double case needed—nothing to be seen, in fact, but a little metal nut and two screws. The action is direct, scientific, simple, and will last as long as the winch, and longer.

A clergyman writes to us to-day, saying, "Kindly inform me how you 'strike from the winch,' using Gossamer gut?" We have once or twice described this, but it is so simple we will do it again.

Use a winch which has a very gentle check on it. This check must only be sufficient to prevent the line unwinding when you, in casting 15 yards or so of line, propel it forward or recover from the water; but if the line catches in anything, or you strike a fish, the winch must allow the line to run off a little. Of course

you do not hold the line in any way, and it should be passed out of the winch, *not* between the rod and the first winch bar, but between the first winch bar and the second or lowest one. This may seem a little matter, but it simply reduces the friction on the line 50 per cent. A few years ago if anyone had told us that not to hold the line, but strike from the winch, was the best plan of the two *in every way*, we should have thought he knew nothing about it.

GUISE AND CO.'S NEW HOOK HOLDER.

Messrs. Guise and Co., of Redditch, have brought out an improved paper hook-holder, which needs only to be seen to be at once appreciated both by the trade and by anglers. It is so simple that the only wonder is it has never been adopted before. The nuisance of hooks catching in each other, in the gut coils, &c., is entirely obviated by this little paper triangular-shaped bag, with envelope flap and slit. The ordinary plan is to fold a bit of paper round the hooks; but this very soon comes off, as every angler knows who has rushed in to a shop to get a half dozen roach or perch hooks when on his way to catch a train. The No. 12 have got mixed up with other sizes, and the time required to disentangle them has caused the loss of many an hour's fishing. But with Mr. Guise's "Registered" holder a hundred lots of hooks might be shaken up in a bag for a week without possibility of entanglement. We could hardly have imagined that a square inch of paper could be made so useful.

BROWN'S PHANTOM MINNOW.

In his charming work, "By Lake and River," Mr. Francis Francis says :—"I looked up my old acquaintance, Mr. Brown, the inventor of the phantom minnow, which is the best artificial bait ever yet invented." This is high praise from such an authority. We must confess our own experience has not been so satisfactory quite, probably because, preferring a bait with the weight in it and not requiring lead on the trace, we have not used it so often as the Devon, the Derby, and one or two others. For loch fishing the phantom certainly is the best artificial spinning bait for salmon and trout, and we know many anglers who consider it far and away the best for any water. Mr. Brown's patterns are beautifully made and mounted; they can be had at most of our best tackle houses.

SALMON FLIES FOR THE DEE.

Mr. Wm. Brown, of 36, George Street, Aberdeen, sends us some samples of his celebrated salmon flies. He says :—"Of course, I shall be only too glad if you will take any notice of my flies, of which I inclose a few of the sizes in actual use on our river. They are dressed upon long shank hooks, now very common here, but first introduced by old William Brown, my predecessor here. I need scarcely bother you with a dressing description. Your correspondent here has given most of them in the GAZETTE, and is, I believe, to give more. If you should go to the Tay, notwithstanding the prejudice of the local anglers, you might give the salmon there an offer of them." We live in hopes of fulfilling Mr. B.'s suggestion before long. The flies sent are the tartan, Gordon, grey heron, killer, Ackroyd, Gardener, white eagle, and yellow eagle. They are all extremely well made, "business-like" flies. The "eagles" especially are great favourites. "You are surely not going to put that lovely fly in the water, it is too nice—how beautiful it will look in my bonnet," is the exclamation of the editorial better half on seeing the white eagle; and truly it is a gorgeous fly, and looks exactly like a little salmon-parr as you draw it with a gentle intermittent movement through the water. No salmon would dream such a fairy-like thing contained such a sting! Our Aberdeen correspondent, in his most valuable and interesting notes, has referred fully to these and other Dee flies, and we hope will continue his descriptions.

MCNEE'S PIKE SCALE FLIES.

Mr. J. McNee, of Bohally, Pitlochry, N.B., sends us a few of his flies on eyed hooks. We have so often referred to them as being most deadly killers, that we need not say more than that they are an improvement on any we have yet had from Mr. McNee, and he says he finds he can fasten the wings much more firmly on the eyed-hooks. Our favourite pattern, a little hare's ear dun, he has christened the "Marston," probably because we always order it when sending for any of his flies. We have found it kill well in all kinds of water, and at all times of the season. It closely resembles many of the duns which are always found on the water at some time of the year.

Mr. J. Palmer, of Littleworth, Redditch, writes :—"I inclose three of my flies, such as I advertise in your paper, and hope you may consider them worth a notice. I have already many customers for them." We certainly never before saw flies so well made as these, at the price—viz., 8d. per dozen. The gut is fine and the hooks of good quality. They appear to be Ronald's patterns.

dinner on Tuesday last. There were also present Captain Burstall, of the Conservancy, Mr. Senior, of the *Field*, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, and other friends.

Dinners.—The Portsmouth Waltonian Angling Society's annual dinner will take place on Thursday, April 3rd. The president of the West Central Association has been invited, and has promised to attend.

The Waltonian Angling Society's dinner comes off on Wednesday, April 2nd, when many prominent anglers have promised to be present.

The Oxford Preservation Society's dinner came off on Thursday, under the presidency of A. Wheeler, Esq., Deputy-Mayor. I have only sufficient space this week to say that the dinner was a success, and that the representatives from kindred societies made some capital speeches which appeared to be highly appreciated. Messrs. Geen and Spreckley were present as representatives of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and Mr. Butler from the Reading.

The Gresham dinner came off on Tuesday. I am not *au fait* of what transpired, but a dear old Irish friend of mine said, "And sure, my boy, our dinner was only a supper."

A smoking concert, in aid of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, has been determined on by a late member of that body, Mr. Blamey, who is sure to work it in such a manner as to bring in a substantial sum. The concert will be held at one of our largest halls, so as to afford an opportunity for the anglers of London to show that they can not only appreciate the work being done by the society, but also their desire to support such a zealous worker as Mr. Blamey. That the concert will be a first-class one cannot be doubted, and when it becomes known that Mrs. Blamey will not only lend the charm of her presence in aid of her husband's scheme, but that she will also sing, I feel sure we shall all be desirous of taking a note of the date on which this pleasing event is to come off.

The Richmond Piscatorial Society's smoking concert, on Wednesday last, was, if possible, more fully attended than usual, and "my dear friend, A. J. Little," who presided, was certainly in his very best form. The evening was a most enjoyable one, and I regret that I have not space for the names of those who distinguished themselves. A pleasing feature of the occasion was the appearance after his severe illness of their ex-chairman, Mr. F. C. Clench.

Our Editor.—I fear Mr. R. B. Marston's fishing trip to the North will not prove so pleasant and successful as we could wish. The winds here are sufficiently piercing to cause us to quite enjoy the fireside; but to fully understand how cold and marrow-freezing a north-east wind can be, you must have fished some of the reaches of the Tay in the month of March. Although not probable, it is possible that our Editor will re-appear amongst us laden with spoil; but I should have more faith in this sort of home coming had he sent a sample fish to

I. C. U.

NOTICES OF FLIES, &c.

NOTES ON FLIES FOR CHALK STREAMS.

(Continued).

IX.—FLIGHT'S FANCY.

THIS fly hails from Winchester, and it is very useful towards the end of April, when the olives are beginning to get lighter in shade, and all through the summer months a small "Flight" may be resorted to with confidence when delicate duns are about.

Body: pale yellow, or primrose, floss silk ribbed with fine flat gold tinsel.

Wings: light starling.

Legs and whisks: pale buff, or for a change, honey dun.

With this list of flies an angler may consider himself well equipped for the first two months of the season, and there are many days in every month of the summer and autumn when these same flies tied smaller would be found sufficient to ensure the best of sport. I don't much believe in dividing artificial flies according to months, and a good comprehensive assortment of spring patterns will, with slight modifications, always be of general use at all times and in all weathers. Still, there are some very favourite flies which do not appear before May, and as these sometimes entirely monopolise the attention of every feeding fish, they must be added to the list. I leave out the green and grey drake, as they are not found on every water, and almost every angler has his own special pattern; but, in my opinion, May flies are fre-

quently tied too large, and I believe whatever pattern be adopted the best sport will be obtained by small flies.

X.—THE BLACK GNAT.

Until last season I never had much faith in this fly. And yet I had encouragement enough in its use on a strange river a few years ago. It was a broiling hot August day; at mid-day I had killed nothing when the black gnat made its appearance and set all the trout feeding madly. In twenty minutes I stalked three fish and bagged them all, 1 lb. 5 oz., 1 lb. 6 oz., and 2½ lb. Since then I have occasionally had sport here and there with the black gnat, but last year I devised a new pattern which was most successful. The natural fly has a long, thin, shiny black body, not a bit like the fluffy little lump usually seen in the imitation. Then the wings are long and lie folded *quite flat* (not sloped like those of a sedge or alder), and projecting over the tail end of the body, showing a shiny, metallic, gauzy film, in strong contrast to the black body, and which cannot be imitated by feather. This is how I make my pattern. On a 00 hook I first put a longish body of black ostrich herl, which has first been stripped. Then I cut a strip of pike scale the proper length and shape to represent the two folded wings and tie it flat on the top of the hook, taking care to show the projecting bit above mentioned. Then over and in front of the wing I take two or three turns of a small black starling's feather and the fly is finished. It does not float very well, but in fine, still weather it is very effective; and the pike scale, tied as I have described, will stand a great deal of whipping. I may here mention that, although I have used pike scales a good deal, I have not been favourably impressed with them for dry-fly fishing, partly because the flies so soon whip to pieces, and also because they don't sit up and float like the ordinary dun well tied with feather wings. The first day I tried this pattern I got seven fish with it. Then, a week afterwards, I was fishing the Kennet, at Hungerford, and one morning I hooked eight or nine brace, again and again rising and hooking a trout with the first cast of my black gnat. On several other days I did well with it, and in future I shall always consider it a good standard fly for summer use.

XI.—THE SEDGE.

The last two or three seasons this fly has not preserved its reputation as a standard pattern for late fishing on a summer's evening. It has been a mystery to many who used to look upon it as a never-failing resource. A few years ago it killed splendidly at Winchester; and I remember seeing a man come to the Old Barge Stream, at eight o'clock one evening in August, and kill five brace of good trout with his favourite sedge. He rarely used anything else in the evening; and I, myself, at that time fished it with more confidence than any other fly. But I have done very little with it lately, and my stock of sedges has not wanted replenishing for a long time. When the trout and grayling return to their old tastes again, this is the way to satisfy them.

(1) THE SILVER SEDGE, which I believe is no sedge at all, but an imitation of the small grass moth which flutters about in the meadows by the river side.

Body: white floss silk, ribbed with silver; hackled all over with buff or light red hackle.

Wings: landrail. Hook, 00 to 1.

(2) THE RED SEDGE (or, Sedge proper).—Hook as before.

Body: red fur from hare's face, or fox's ear, or from the reddest part of an opossum skin. Rib it with gold thread, wind on a red hackle from tail to head, and wing it with a ruddy wing feather from a landrail's wing.

(3) THE BIG SEDGE.—This is the local name, but I prefer to call it the cinnamon. It is a fat, toothsome morsel, nearly an inch long, and answers capitally on a moonlight night, when it is warm, still, and free from mist. I have killed many heavy fish with it, especially in September, during the harvest moon. The dressing I prefer is the same as that given for the red sedge, on a No. 2 hook, and winged with the reddest part of a cock landrail's wing, or, better still, with one of the under covert feathers of the peahen, which are very faintly mottled with a darker shade of brown. Though true to nature, I think it is a mistake to dress the body thick, for the fly is apt to be heavy and lumpy, and so float badly.

XII.—THE ALDER.

Is very useful in June, and on some rivers will kill in the May-fly season better than the drake itself. It is in great favour with the Fairford anglers, and the natural fly is very plentiful on the Colne.

Body: bronze-coloured peacock herl.

Hackle: black, or a dull-coloured feather, with black centre and ruddy tips.

Wings: from the tail feather of a hen pheasant.

There is another very good variety known as the button or red-

winged alder, which should be dressed as before, only that the wing should come from the red tail feather of a partridge.

Hook, No. 2.

XIII.—THE BROWN QUILL.

Very useful in August and September.

Body: some light quill dyed in Judson's light brown. I make it with fibres of a condor's feather—not easily obtainable by all—and it answers very well. Others have produced very good imitations by taking ordinary peacock quill and bleaching it, but I don't quite know how the process of bleaching is managed.

Legs and whisks: ginger.

Wings: medium starling.

Hook, oo.

XIV.—THE INDIAN YELLOW.

I have never done anything with this fly, but I have seen it out strongly on the Itchen, and the fish feeding ravenously when I had no good pattern to offer. Mr. Aldam's pattern is the only one, but the wing he recommends is very soft, and makes a poor fly for floating. It is a pity some other blue feather cannot be found suitable for this fly and the next.

Body: a delicate brown silk ribbed with bright yellow.

Legs and whisks: a rich buff.

Wings: from the under wing feathers of a young grouse.

Hook, oo.

This fly has a very prominent reddish-brown head. Mr. Aldam uses a couple of turns of a dark rich orange, which, when wet, is the exact shade of the natural fly.

XV.—THE BLUE-WINGED OLIVE.

This fly is larger than most of the duns of the summer months, and generally makes its appearances just at dusk, when it sometimes comes out in myriads.

At Winchester in September I have seen the river covered with it, and rising fish only a few yards apart as far as one could see. Some of the heaviest fish I have ever killed in Hampshire have been taken with this fly, and yet I have never been satisfied with any of the imitations I have yet devised. The body is of delicate greenish olive, legs a pale watery olive, and the wings distinctly blue, like those of the Indian yellow. I have made the body of silk, wool, dyed fur, ribbed with gold, and with quill of different sorts. I hope some day to hit off the right shade in dyeing fibres of the condor's wing feather, and also to discover what will make the best wing. Possibly the blue feather from a merlin hawk's wing might do, or perhaps the coot's wing might solve the mystery. It must not be a soft feather which sucks up water and gets sodden directly, for the natural fly sits up and rides cockily on the water, and no half-drowned imitation can ever do much execution. I am convinced we have not got the right pattern yet. It should be tied on a No. o.

XVI.—THE LITTLE SKY BLUE.

Either this is the same as Mr. Aldam's Eden fly, or it is a very near relation. It is a splendid grayling fly in August and September; in fact, all free-rising fish take it well in the warm autumn mornings from ten to mid-day.

Body: pale straw colour, of silk, quill, or fur. I have killed well with all three, but silk I like least, as it changes colour after it is wet much more than other materials.

Legs and whisks: light honey dun.

Wings: a pale delicate blue, best imitated with a jay's wing feather.

Hook, oo or ooo.

XVII.—THE RED TAG.

A fancy fly, more for grayling than for trout, and useful in late autumn and winter. But occasionally it attracts trout quite unexpectedly when it is being used for grayling in September. I got some capital trout with it at the close of last season.

Body: peacock herl, short and fat, with a tiny tag of red wool at the tail. At the shoulder a few turns of a dark, rich, red hackle.

Hook, oo.

XVIII.—THE INTERMEDIATE.

I use this name to denote a class of delicate flies which I use with considerable success in summer fishing. Everyone must have noticed how the different duns seem to run by different gradations from one kind into another, so that sometimes a fly picked off the water cannot definitely be named according to any of the standards of classification, and yet it bears a considerable resemblance to several flies we are accustomed to call by name. I have found it very useful to tie various horsehair detached bodies of pale and delicate tints, and then match these with wings and hackle; choosing different shades of honey dun, light buff, or olive for legs, and varying the colour of the wings so as to suit the rest of the fly. I take immense pains over these patterns, and by

constantly studying the changes in the natural insects I am enabled to produce delicate and life-like artificials which frequently bring a good fish to my basket after he has steadily refused to be tempted by other flies.

This list is, I think, comprehensive enough. Some will think it needlessly long, and others will miss some favourite pattern of their own special fancy. But, in giving my opinion on the subject of flies, I have described those which my own book contains, and a supply of which I always like to keep up to working order. If they are dressed of suitable size, and are used with fine gut, they will suffice to give sport if sport is to be had; and anyone who fails with such a list as this will, I am convinced, find fly fishing generally an unprofitable pursuit.

H. S. HALL.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE FINAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE, HELD MARCH 22, 1884.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., in the chair.

Present—The Earl of Ducie, Lord Abinger, C.B., Sir A. Blyth, K.C.M.G., Sir P. Cunliffe Owen, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E., E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., R. K. Causton, Esq., M.P., R. W. Duff, Esq., M.P., E. Lonsdale Beckwith, Esq., T. Crumplin, Esq., E. Edwards, Esq., H. Fennell, Esq., Professor H. W. Flower, F.R.S., E. W. H. Holdsworth, Esq., A. Jardine, Esq., H. Lee, Esq., F.L.S., Captain St. Vincent Nepean, R.N., Major Flodd Page, Commander J. F. Prowse, R.N., T. R. Sachs, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel Stuart Wortley, J. Last Sayer, Esq., A. L. Rollitt, Esq., LL.D., F.L.S., H. Toozes, Esq., J. Tremaine, Esq., C. Cecil Trevor, C.B., F. Wiseman, Esq., W. Fell Woods, Esq.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting of the General Committee of 8th of August, 1883, which were confirmed.

Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., next read the report of the Executive Committee. He then said: Your Royal Highness and gentlemen, I must apologise for the length of the report just read, but the Executive Committee were particularly anxious to give as much information as possible respecting their proceedings since the last meeting of the General Committee, and it is only the prelude to the exhaustive and interesting official report written by Mr. Spencer Walpole, which will be issued in due course, together with the audited accounts and various statistics of general interest usually presented in connection with International Exhibitions. I wish to point out that our policy has been a most liberal one, and we have endeavoured to make the Exhibition not only a financial success, but also a lasting benefit to those who are specially interested and engaged in the fishing industries of this country. It has undoubtedly been of great importance, and given a direct encouragement to the fishing interest, and has brought the fishery questions of the world before the public in a manner never before contemplated. We have done our best to place before and make known to fishermen, smack owners, and others engaged in the fisheries, all the best modes of fishing carried on in the world, and we have given them every means of acquiring as much knowledge on these subjects as possible, and it only rests now for them to utilise the knowledge they have acquired for their own benefit, and also for the community at large, by increasing the supply of fish. The Legislature must now follow up these results by taking the necessary steps to obtain a reduction in the prohibitive railway rates, and enable both catcher and consumer to receive the benefits to which they are entitled. I trust I may be allowed in conclusion to take this opportunity of referring to an international matter that I have personally taken an active interest in for several years, and which has come to a happy conclusion this week, viz., that the International Convention relative to the North Sea fisheries has been duly ratified at Brussels, and comes into force on the 15th of May, and I trust it will have the effect of putting an end to the depredations that have unhappily taken place from time to time. The warmest thanks of all who are engaged in the North Sea fisheries are due to a member of the General Committee (Mr. Cecil Trevor, of the Board of Trade), for the able and admirable manner in which he represented our interests on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. I shall be only too glad to give any further information that may be desired. (Applause.)

Lord Abinger: With His Royal Highness's permission I rise to move that the report be received and confirmed. It is so satisfactory in its nature that it is not at all necessary for me to enlarge upon it, and I am now satisfied that both the public and the Committee, and your Royal Highness must be perfectly satisfied with the conduct and results of this Exhibition.

Sir Arthur Blyth: I have great pleasure in seconding the motion that the report just read be adopted and confirmed.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

His Royal Highness: You have all listened, I am sure, with great interest to the report that has been read to you by the chairman of the Executive Committee. From what we have heard, I think it is patent to all that the late Fisheries Exhibition has in every point of view been a success. It has been a financial success, and it has been also a success as regards the enormous quantity of people who have visited it—not only our own countrymen and those from our colonies, but from every part of the globe. It is unnecessary for me on an occasion of this kind to enumerate the objects of this Exhibition, but I maintain that its two salient objects, namely, the scientific and practical ones, have fully justified its existence—its scientific object by exhibits being shown of every possible kind of modern appliance that could be invented, thus showing the great improvements that have been made in the fishing industry of the world; the practical, because it not only shows to our own countrymen, but to those of all the world, what a valuable means of subsistence fish is, many of whom, I believe, had no idea how valuable it was, whilst the existence of a variety of fish was made known which had not even been heard of by the great majority. Well, gentlemen, you have all heard that there is a surplus amounting to £15,243, and the question naturally is how to employ that sum. In the address that I read to you at the closing of the Exhibition I held out some hope that this might be applied in a useful and practical manner, and I would, therefore, now suggest to the General Committee that one of the best objects to perpetuate this successful Exhibition would be to appropriate, say, about £10,000, to alleviate

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

SIR,—With reference to the threatened withdrawal of the privilege tickets, I beg leave to suggest that if the railway companies would instruct their ticket examiners to inspect the cards at the same time as the railway ticket, on entering a train, the abuse of them would be avoided, and this would probably be a great saving of time to the booking clerks and to the public. The most sincere thanks of all anglers are due to the companies who have granted these concessions; but it is questionable whether they would now be gainers by the discontinuance of them as many of us would have to curtail our fishing tours. I know for my own part that I should not go out one half of the number of times in the spring and winter that I now do.—I am, &c.,

E. J. W.

THE PROFESSIONAL ANGLING COMPETITION.

SIR,—May I ask why your correspondent, "I. C. U.," should begrudge the professional fishermen a day's sport amongst themselves for one day during the year? I see nothing in it to be turned into ridicule. It was I who got it up, and not Mr. A. J. Little, who did not know a word about it till the day before the contest came off. What harm is there in it? It is not like professional fishermen sitting in their puns all day long trying to get trout or other valuable fish, for sale or otherwise, which practice I fully condemn; but in this case they got about 26 lb. of dace between the whole 6 of them. I am sure that those gentlemen who have written against professionals fishing by themselves never meant to debar them from a friendly and innocent contest like the one "I. C. U." is pleased to remark upon. With respect to the feast, who could better be at the head of the table than that well-known and respected angler of Twickenham, Mr. A. J. Little, who, when he was asked if he would preside and give the prizes away, said "Yes" at once, without having to go and consult his friends to see if he might do it or not? If he has done anything inconsistent in that, he and other gentlemen who preside at meetings for the welfare of those below them in station are always inconsistent. I am afraid "I. C. U." has never been asked to take the chair on an occasion like this (out of pure respect), so that he cannot speak in a practical point of view of consistency.—I am, &c.,

W. WALKER.

Two Sawyers Inn, Twickenham.

[We must admit that we do not think "I. C. U." was quite justified in comparing professionals fishing for Thames trout at every chance with a single day's angling match such as this was. At the same time there was risk of this affair becoming a precedent for similar matches, especially as it was in a left-handed sort of way officially recognised.—ED.]

THE PATENT LEVER SALMON WINCH.

SIR,—In striking a fish off the reel with double hooks, breaking the hold, as it is termed, is almost an impossibility—a common occurrence when the line is held. We often hear it argued that double hooks are a mistake—of one working the other out, &c., &c.; but those who know their value never use single. Salmon reels are not yet perfect, but nearly so; the day is not far distant when we shall see a great improvement in them. These remarks from me will be found in the FISHING GAZETTE, 22nd December last. They were addressed to anglers with limited experience, but perhaps I should have been a little more explanatory. Tweed anglers—some of our best fishermen, too—declare by exceptional large double hooks; at any rate, they should always be used from the smallest size up to one inch and six eighths in length; the immense advantage is indeed only known to those who constantly fish with them. In striking salmon in a rapid stream, how often does the single gut break when the line is held, and if this does not happen, how often are fish lost because in all probability the flesh has been torn? Neither of these mishaps occur when the brake in the winch is made sufficiently strong to admit of the strike being effected properly without holding the line; then, it will be found that "breaking the hold is almost an impossibility."

It is astonishing the number of salmon that are gaffed by anglers who adopt this method, without the hooks having been shifted at all. The subject has been freely discussed during my late visit to the Tay, Dee, Don, and Earn. Upon one occasion I was "confidently informed" by an angler of some years' experience that my views were altogether wrong. However, he accompanied me, and after banking three very heavy fish, he entirely altered his opinion; the double hooks an inch and a half in length were found upon each occasion to be firm and straightly inserted, without the flesh having been in the least torn, although the fish were played in rapids. There are three exceptions, when the line must be held:

1. In flipping up stream.
2. In fishing across a slow current.
3. When very large hooks are necessary on treble gut.

The new winch, the subject of this communication, is made by Messrs. Farlow and Co. The angler can regulate the strength of it with taking it to pieces, which is a special advantage. It can be made in a moment to run easier than any ordinary reel, or even stiffer than is necessary by merely turning a small external screw which causes a steel spring to press upon an internal plate, so that the action is checked. This spring does its work upon a centre bearing, and not upon the opposite end to which the screw is attached.

The external screw is extremely well arranged. It can be turned with a shilling or any other coin, or it can be made for experienced anglers, like my own, to be managed with the fingers. I prefer those that are silent, without the usual check, because in winding in the line you do not rouse the fish, which is a very important consideration, especially at the head of a rapid; and because when the steel spring is let out to stiffen the reel, it keeps all the plates firm, whereas in ordinary reels they invariably work a trifle loose; and also because they will last much longer than any other that is manufactured, and when required for hitting fish in the ordinary manner, just one turn with the screw will suffice.—I am, &c.,

GEO. M. KELSON.

[The winch is indeed a most excellent one—the workmanship perfect. The same result in a different but equally simple way is attained in the excellent winch recently patented by Mr. Reuben Heaton of Birmingham.]

RUST-PROOF HOOKS.

SIR,—In your issue of the 5th inst., W. Guise and Son, of this town, have a letter referring to my rust-proof hooks. To further ventilate the subject, allow me to give you the facts and truth of the matter. I have been a practical hook hardener and finisher over twenty years, and have finished all sorts of hooks for the leading manufacturers of the town and district, and hold the highest testimonials for workmanship.

When working for Messrs. Harrison and Co., in 1874, I first introduced the

Brown enamelled hooks, of which fact I have abundant proof; but did not offer them to the public until trading on my own account a few years ago, and in your paper of August 26th, 1882, you were kind enough to speak very highly of my invention.

As to the words, "Brown Enamelled Hooks," that is the brand I sold under, and is part and parcel of my trade mark, which is duly registered under the Trade Marks Acts, and the label, "Rust-Proof Hooks," duly registered at Stationers' Hall.

Having sold my business to Messrs. Allcock and Co., with all rights of registration, &c., I must leave it in their hands to do as they please concerning any infringements of their rights, and leave the public to judge whether there are any pirates or dishonest traders referred to in this and the former letter on the subject.—I am, &c.,

CHAS. COURT.

WORK ON NETS—PERFORATED BULLETS.

SIR,—Allow me through your paper to thank "H. A. H." and "Creel" for their kind information with regard to the latter. It is not a question of expense, but I use my spare time net making, and wish to improve myself generally.

Two more questions and I hope to trouble you no more. Where can I procure small perforated bullets by the hundred? and how can I pierce solid ones for use?—I am, &c.,

J. ALFRED KELLEY.

1, Linden Vale, Exeter.

A "GREAT AND PENETRATING SOUND."

SIR,—We beg to inform you that we are going to hold some experiments, under the auspices of the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House at Trinity Wharf, Blackwall, with our New Patent Continuous Blast Fog Horn, and we shall be pleased if you may consider the subject of sufficient importance, at the present time, to send a reporter to hear the performance.—I am, &c.,

A. BURNS GLEN, sec.

Holmes' Marine Life Protection Association, Limited,
8, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

[There are some noises to which we have no objection—for instance, "that described by Coleridge's Ancient Mariner as:

"A noise like of a hidden brook
In the leafy month of June;"

but a Patent Continuous Blast Fog Horn! Great Scot! What have we done to deserve this?—ED.]

ST. NEOT'S FISHERY.

SIR,—I am sorry to be unable to comply with the suggestion thrown out by your correspondent, "I. C. U.," viz., to make certain inquiries in reference to the late St. Neot's Fishery prosecution. For the following very good reason: That on three occasions myself, twice while fishing from the towing path, and once in a boat, without any gun, and not within the shadow of a notice board, I have been ordered to desist by a person representing himself as a keeper and also by others; but, as I had frequently been informed by the inhabitants that this fishery had always been an open and public one, I have declined to desist. It is true, I have never been summoned, but have apparently run risks. These warnings have always seemed to me as savouring of tyranny. Let us hope that some arrangement may be come to which, while securing private rights (if such exist), may keep this noble river open for the healthful, yet harmless, recreation of the London angler. Or, on the other hand, if any angler persistently misbehaves himself, he should be shunned by all those who are good and true; and, if a club man, his name should be struck off the rolls of the London Angling Society.—I am, &c.,

T. HUGGART.

FLOATING FLIES ON EYED HOOKS.

SIR,—Fly fishermen ought to be very grateful to Mr. Hall for the valuable information contained in his letter in last week's GAZETTE, also for many other most interesting letters that have appeared at different times. I am sorry to say his eyed hooks are not so popular as they ought to be, the general complaint being that they are so difficult to thread, and that when through the eye it is a bother to fasten the gut. I admit the former is difficult and vexatious with the general run of bought flies, for the simple reason the eye is usually plastered up with varnish, which I think is quite unnecessary. The hackle, which ought to be put on last of all, if properly fastened off, requires no varnish. I have not used it for years, and I can't recollect a fly ever coming to pieces, unless the hackle has been mauled by a trout's teeth. As to the fastening on an eyed hook, it is a much easier and faster operation than linking on a fly tied on gut. The great advantage eyed hooks possess over ordinary ones is that they object to be flicked off; it requires some skill and no little patience to accomplish the feat. I should very much like to know on what principle fly-tiers charge more for flies tied on eyed hooks than they do for those with gut? To my mind, it ought to be "the other way on." I was always under the impression that by far the most expensive part of a fly was the gut; it now appears that the gut is of little or no value, and that the difference lies in the cost of hooks. As the difference is very slight, it more than compensates for the price of gut. Flies ought to be tied quicker on eyed hooks, as there is no gut in the first instance to bind on, and there is no possibility of the wings or hackle slipping over the head, just as the fly is finished, and before it gets its dab of varnish. The only reason that I can assign is, that tackle makers do not care to encourage the eyed hooks, for the reason that if universally used there would not be half the demand for flies, one tied on an eyed hook lasting out quite three on gut. What we now want is a book or case, or both combined, suited to carry them; it must not be the old style of flannel and parchment, but something in the form of a cask into which you can stick the flies and release them without the aid of a pair of scissors. Last week I saw in Winchester the very latest contrivance. I think it belonged to some gentleman near Manchester, and was sent to one of the local tiers to be filled up with eyed flies. If this should meet his eye, I hope it will not be too late to caution him that the first time he opens it, when there is any wind, he will lose his entire stock of flies. The case was nothing more or less than a tin paint box folding in half, with a dozen partitions on each side, into which the flies were supposed to be dropped; when opened there was nothing to hold them, consequently the first puff of wind would empty the case. I hope some of our knowing ones will be able to devise something that will meet our requirements. There is no reason why the book or case should not combine receptacles for flies on gut as well as on eyed hooks.—I am, &c.,

HAMPSHIRE.

March 25.

so meanly as is insinuated by Mr. Crumplen, and further, has to our certain knowledge done everything that was possible to aid London anglers for many years past.—E.D.]

THE LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY AND THE PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

SIR.—Kindly permit me to make it known to the anglers of London through your columns that the London and South-Western Railway Company have been compelled, by the frequent abuses of the anglers' cheap tickets, to withdraw them until the opening of the season—viz., the 16th June next. The company being reluctant to deprive the poorer anglers of this boon altogether, have kindly consented to the re-issue of the tickets on the above date on the understanding that for the future one association—viz., the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies will be held solely responsible for the proper observance of the regulations under which such tickets are issued by the company.

We are of opinion that with one ticket, and one responsible committee to control its issue, we shall, while giving every angler the opportunity of enjoying this privilege, be able to prevent its abuse.

We desire to ask anglers generally to co-operate with us by reporting any case of abuse which may come under their notice, and by being careful themselves in observing the regulations printed at the back of the tickets. It is only by the means of one ticket and one central control that any of these concessions can long be retained, and, therefore, our warmest thanks are due to the London and South-Western Railway for giving us this chance to regain their confidence, and at the same time enabling us to prove to other companies that abuses can be stopped by this means.

In conclusion I venture to anticipate that my committee will consider that any society having already paid an enrolment fee to either of the other associations, in order that it might enjoy this privilege, should be enrolled with our association without further payment.—I am, &c.,

H. J. TIBBATS, hon. sec.,

West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies.
The Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, W.

DEATH OF MR. S. MORGAN.

SIR.—It is my painful duty to inform you of the death of my esteemed friend and colleague, Mr. S. Morgan, chairman of the United London Anglers' Central Committee for twelve years, and vice president of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and the Anglers' true friend. He expired at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23rd, at his residence, 2, Marion Square, Priard's Row, Hackney Road.—I am, &c.,

R. GHURNEY.

P.S.—Following up my sad communication of to day, I have to add that the late S. Morgan was 42 years of age. The funeral will take place at Abney Park Cemetery on Tuesday next, April 29th, at 2 o'clock. He leaves a widow and three young children totally unprovided for.

RUNNING STREAM.

SIR.—We, men and boys, have been in the habit of fishing in a stream that runs from near High Wycombe through the Rye, and thence through the meadow marsh to Sandwater; here it is bounded on the one side by private lands, and the other side by the high road. May I ask, can anybody claim a purchased right, and so prevent the public from fishing from the road side? We humble "piscators" are shut out of all other fishing by Wycombe Angling Association. And now Mr. Vernon (Mayor) has given notice that he will prosecute any person so fishing without his leave. We shall be most obliged to you if you can give us the "law or liberty over streams."—I am, &c.,

GEORGE HARTON.

Loudwater, Bucks.

[If the owner of a property has only one side of a stream, he can only claim the right to fish from his side to the middle of the stream; if he has both sides the stream, of course it is his property, unless it is tidal water. We advise Mr. Harton to get up a deputation to the Mayor; that gentleman is a dispenser of justice, and should be glad to assist his poorer townspeople.—ED.]

MR. H. A. HALL'S ARTICLES

SIR.—There must be many amateur trout-fly tiers besides myself who hope that Mr. Hall will not allow his very able pen to become dry. His letters of 25th November, 1882, and 22nd March, 1884, on floating-flies with eyed hooks, and his recent notes on eighteen standard flies in your issues of the 22nd and 29th ult. leave us somewhat in that condition of feeling intended to be induced by Mr. Weller's love letter.

Whilst wishing to limit my present appeal to Mr. Hall's generosity to asking the favour of two or three supplementary items of explanation of his *modus operandi*, I venture to throw out, for your joint consideration, whether, in the march of modern piscatorial science, the time has not arrived for a dissertation on fly-tying which shall summarise the results of recent improvements in the noble art. We have text-books, but they are old. We want a new dissertation, written clearly and fully as to detail, treating the subject under various heads, such as the following:—(1) Fly-tying generally; (2) the different modes of tying as applicable to the various classes of flies and their use as floating or sunk flies; (3) materials for tying their kinds, representative values, properties and use; (4) dyes, their kinds and use, &c., &c. I venture to think, Sir, that such a dissertation appearing in your columns, roughly illustrated, would be of lasting value to very many readers.

It would also form a weekly nucleus of discussion and information for tiers, and afford to many an opportunity which they cannot get at the waterside. Moreover, in our case the "art is to conceal art," and as co-operative artists we desire to attain not a way, but the best way in our work.

Having liberated my soul on that matter, may I be allowed to ask Mr. Hall—1. How he settles the wings? How are they to be held, and how are the vice and hook to be placed?

The difficulty arises from his direction to pass the silk with the "right hand round the butt ends of the wings." Is not the vice in the way? Is there any other and better way than using the middle finger of the left hand as a "stop" on the silk?

2. Is any one form of fly vice better than another for the eyed-hooks?

3. What is the best knot by which to attach the gut to the eye?

Permit me in conclusion, to remark that in picking up, just as Mr. Hall did, the way "to tie a fly" almost entirely by myself (I have seen only one fly tied, and that by an amateur), I have never understood the reticence of certain

professionals, who act as if to any great extent the art could be a trade secret. The trade profits of fly-tying, I submit, will ever depend on no trade secret, but on the proficiency of the trade tyer on the one hand, and on the other hand on the inability to tie of the majority of fishermen through want of time, desire, patience, or materials.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Mhilde, Duin, April 24.3..b.a

H. GRIBBLE.

A DESERVING CASE.

SIR.—There are doubtless many anglers and oarsmen who still remember the comfortable Anchor Hotel at Shepperton, and its generous and ever-willing and obliging land lady, Miss Eliza Steer. They will hear with regret that she has become sadly afflicted since her bankruptcy, which was brought about by her implicit reliance upon the bona fides of many of her customers who used the house. She is now a candidate for the 20th annual pension from the Royal Hospital for Incurables, West Hill, Putney Heath, at the ensuing election on the 30th prox., and is 64 years of age. I earnestly hope this timely appeal will prove of service to this excellent creature.—I am, &c.,

CREEL.

TROUT FISHING IN THE DEE AT CORWEN.

SIR.—As I have to thank you through your columns for a most enjoyable holiday, perhaps a few particulars may be of interest to some of your readers who, like myself, are anxious to find a place where an enjoyable fishing holiday may be spent. I have only one answer, Come to Corwen. The scenery is simply grand, and the fishing is, I should say, considering the small charge that is made for preserved water, the best that can be got. I came down here thinking I might see a little trout fishing and perhaps have a cast or two and try to get my hand in, as I was quite a novice. The first thing I did on arriving here was to make inquiries if there was a good man in the town who would go out with me, and from whom I might glean some information. I was most fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Wood, of London-road, who, I may say, is one of the most experienced salmon and trout fishers on the Dee, and a man who is most happy to give every information as to the fishing. A hint here may not be out of place to any who may intend coming: Bring your rod and line with you, but for casts and flies take my advice and go to Mr. Wood. We have been fishing now since Good Friday, Sundays excluded, and up till to day (Tuesday) have succeeded in taking 42 brace of trout. Now this (considering we have started out each morning with the disheartening intelligence that there is a bitter east wind and very little water) is not so bad; and I am told that if there was only a fresh, that is, a little rain to swell the river a trifle, our takes would be double. The fish do not run large; but yesterday, out of 21, we had about ten that would average a little over a quarter of a pound. Now as to accommodation, Mr. Hughes, at the Eagles Hotel, provides every comfort, and very reasonably; he is also treasurer to the Corwen, Cynwyd, &c. trout preserve; tickets may be procured here. There is plenty of good fishing in the neighbourhood to be had free, but the Dee, I am sure, at 4s. per week, will repay any lover of the rod for his outlay. Trusting this may find a place in your valuable paper as a little information to any who may want to have a week's quiet trout fishing.—I am, &c.,

Eagles Hotel, Corwen, N. Wales.

W. M. HILL.

THAMES PROFESSIONAL FISHERMEN FISHING.

SIR.—I am sorry I did not send a report; but really I was not worth a stamp Thursday, but will always endeavour to be punctual as I know it to be as much my benefit as yours. Now, by your pleasure, I want a word with you about this trout fishing business. I have had no engagements for over a week. If people won't come and fish for them at all, I don't think they ought to find fault with a fellow for catching them, so much as I have tried to charm them to come. What follows you make a line or two of for next week's edition. I had three engagements past week, but they didn't turn up. I went round the fleet Saturday week to look out for a fish, and saw 2 rise. Sunday morning was disappointed. Them that engaged me didn't turn up. Yesterday (Sat.) I went over the weir again. I had my tackle with me. Saw 2 more fine ones not far from the others. Believe me, I didn't fish, but thought I'd wait and see if Saturday's post brought any engagement. This morning I says to my wife, "I must have one of them fish to-day." I went to the punt in the ditch where it was left; began to wip for some bleak; see another fish move. The above mentioned are about 1/2 up from this one. Says I must have you—about 4 lb. When I got mid stream I see him again to the left of me. My bait was at the right in the act of slewing it across stream. Another 8 lb. grabbed it, as handsome a fish as ever was seen. He took nearly all my line. I had to move anchor for him. When he got to the rise on the swift shallows he came up-stream again to the left of me. Anchor line under my foot, I dropped to stay—got him nearly to the punt. He took off again to the right on the shallows. Six or eight times I had to weigh anchor. Ones I lost feel of him altogether, the punt went so; dropped anchor, wound up sharp, and had him close to the punt, tearing up-stream; then I just caught sight of him, for I never saw him once on the top. Off down-stream again he goes into them boughs where the stream washes so hard; raised anchor again here, where I thought he must do me. Anyhow he made a good fight for it, backwards and forwards across the stream, never once showing himself to the end of the fleet. It banged all that ever I met with in a fish till I got him.—I am, &c.,

C. LUMSDEN, fisherman.

1, Percy Cottage, Datchet.

THE STRIKE FROM THE WINCH REEL.

SIR.—In answer to your correspondent, "N. E. L.," Yarmouth, I can put the patent to all kinds of winches except the common wood reels that have a screw nut on end of spindle. Wood and ebonite centre winches I apply the patent to. All orders must come through fishing tackle house, as I am strictly wholesale. The cost would not be much.—I am, &c.,

Birmingham, April 24.

REUBEN HEATON.

NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

SIR.—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter in reply to my circular letter of the 3rd inst., inviting contributions towards the loan collection now being established by this association at the Aquarium, South Kensington. I am requested by my council to thank you for your promptitude in replying, and for your kind promise of co-operation and support. Will you please inform me, in course of post, what day this week it will be convenient for you to allow our loan to be removed to the Exhibition, when a van, with properly qualified

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

All communications respecting Advertisements must be addressed to the Manager of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Scotch Agency—Mr. J. G. Gray (Henderson's Agency), 49, York Place, Edinburgh.

Irish Agency—Mr. T. E. Fitz-Patrick, 3, O'Meara Terrace, Clonliffe, Dublin.

American Office and Agency, Mr. De Witt C. Lent, 30, Park Place, New York.

N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, AND CO., the Proprietors.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1884.

BALLINAHINCH, CO. GALWAY.

PRESUMING the visitor makes Roundstone his headquarters, being the centre for sport and sea and trout-fishing (free), there is a large chain of lakes many miles in extent, on which white and brown trout fishing can be had gratis within less than an hour's walk of the hotel. The principal loughs, Bolara and Wheelin, contain excellent fish. They are situated on the west side of Enisbeg Hill, where a most magnificent view of the surrounding country for miles in extent can be had, and on very clear days the Brandon Hills of Kerry can be seen. Roundstone is situated on the celebrated Bertraghboy Bay, which is remarkable for excellent mackerel and pollock-fishing, and within a distance of five miles of the Skira Rocks, which is noted for being the haunts for different species of seals, which afford capital sport. The celebrated salmon fishery of Ballinahinch is within a distance of three miles. Visitors staying at the Roundstone Hotel can fish on the waters. The tariff is as follows:—10s. per day, or £2 10s. per week. Mr. Blackadder, the head-keeper at Ballinahinch, will supply every information. South of Roundstone very good fishing can be procured at the Doohiella Salmon and White Trout Fishery, and the tariff is 5s. per day. Wm. Young, Esq., Brackey Park, is the lessee of this fishery. Mr. Kelly, of the hotel, will afford information. The angler can retain all fish caught at all the fisheries. Summer fish (peal) go up in vast numbers during the months of May and June, so that the angler can enjoy grand sport until the end of the season (31st October). About the end of June white trout run in all the Connemara fisheries. The Gowla Fishery (Mr. Blackadder head-keeper) is remarkable as being, perhaps, the best white trout fishery in the United Kingdom, a single rod not unfrequently taking four dozen in one day—terms same as Ballinahinch.

THE NEW LIST OF CLUBS IN THE WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

MR. H. J. TIBBATS, of 46, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C., the hon. sec. of the Association, has just issued the new list of the clubs enrolled with the Association. Mr. T. has spared no pains to make it as perfect as possible, and it must have been no easy task, for we know well how difficult it is to get information of this kind.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE "FISHING GAZETTE."

WE have much pleasure in informing our readers that on July 5 next the GAZETTE will be considerably enlarged, and printed from entirely new type. This will necessitate the binding up of the numbers for 1884 in two half-yearly volumes. There will be no increase in the price of the paper.

Any of our readers who will send us the names and addresses of anglers who do not take the GAZETTE, in order that we may send them a copy of the July 5 number, will materially assist us.

It would also be a great help if our friends who may have influence with advertisers will get them to try the GAZETTE. Increased receipts will enable us to still further improve the paper.

SALMON FISHING IN THE TRENT.

A CORRESPONDENT at Tamworth wrote last week as follows:—"Please say in your 'Answers to Correspondents' if salmon take a fly on the Trent at Shardlow, and what is the best mode of fishing for them there." We felt pretty certain that the Trent salmon were not taken with the fly, but to make sure wrote to an old subscriber in Nottingham, who very kindly replies as below. If we are not mistaken, the salmon in the Test at one time would not take the fly, but were educated to it by persistent fly-fishing:—

"DEAR SIR,

"I just received yours on the point of leaving business. In answer, I may say that no salmon have ever been known to have been taken in the Trent with a fly. I tried only on my last outing, and have known several other expert hands who kill a lot in Scotland and Norway, but the experiment on the Trent has met with no success. The best baits are the lob or dew worm, and the artificial spinner, which latter is specially made by Mr. John Theaker, fishing tackle maker, Canal Street, Nottingham. Theaker knows the requirements of the Trent to a nicety.

"There are no day tickets, but those for the season can be obtained now for Shardlow for £1 1s., including Shardlow and Wiston, from that sum up to five guineas; but the best salmon fishing is at Shardlow, £1 1s., which can be obtained through Mr. Theaker, or through Mr. Thos. Wood, the lessee.

"There were two gentlemen fishing this last week, from the top end of Yorkshire, who brought a stock of flies, but found them no good in the Trent.

"You will be pleased to hear that I have been successful in killing a fine fish of 23½ lb. with a single gut and worm, and my friend killed one 16 lb., in the neighbourhood of Willington.—I am, &c., S. SILLS."

THE "MARSTON" FLY-ROD.

WE are asked to add to names of firms who are keeping in stock the "Marston" rod, Mr. James Ogden, 28, Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham; Mr. S. Bigg, 27, Russell Street, Covent Garden, London; Mr. W. Bleakley, 93, Newport Street, Bolton.

NOTICES OF FLIES, &c.

J. OGDEN'S MAY-FLIES, &c.

By an oversight the name of Mr. James Ogden, 28, Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham, was omitted from the list of firms keeping the "Marston" rod. He writes to ask us to put it in.

The biggest trout of the year are undoubtedly caught during the May-fly season, either with the natural fly—which is rank poaching—or with the delicate imitations made of feather and steel.

Mr. James Ogden, of 28, Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham, has sent us eight or nine different dressings of the May-fly. He says he could send many other dressings, but these are the best killers. They are all really beautifully made.

No. 1 is a grey drake, with smooth straw-coloured body, ribbed with gold twist, crimson silk, and run over with a ginger hackle.

No. 2 is a grey drake, with yellow wool body, and brown worsted tag.

No. 3 is a grey drake, with gold twist and crimson silk body (wound over alternately), and over these is fastened a bit of fine, transparent quill. This has a very good effect.

No. 4 is a grey drake, with a lively black-red hackle wound over a juicy-looking, dirty-yellow body. This is a most excellent pattern.

No. 5 is a real grey drake, with very pretty plain mallard wings, straw body, with silver twist, and a hackle with light points and dark butt, not unlike badger hair.

Nos. 6 and 7 are very pretty green drakes, with red or rusty ginger hackles over light yellow cork or wool or quill bodies.

We have every confidence—from experience in previous years—in recommending Mr. Ogden's May-flies. Good workmanship and material can be relied on. They will be the death of many a lusty Hampshire and Gloucestershire trout before many days are past.

He has also a little green-bodied dun, plain and ribbed, which we can recommend to all who may have the fortune to try conclusions with trout in a quiet stream, where the duns come slowly down on the surface, and the trout know what's what.

OGDEN'S REGISTERED PREMIER SPINNER.

"This bait is constructed upon an entirely new and improved principle—the

the collar both projecting into the bladder, and it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for any animal to escape, although I have observed a long worm do so at the expense of a part of his body; yet, as a rule, it is a case of "all who enter here, lose hope."

To show how closely the edge fits, it was found that a daphnia, which had inserted its antennæ into the slit, was held fast a whole day, and on other occasions long narrow larvæ, both dead and alive, were seen wedged between the valve and the collar with their bodies half in and half out the vesicle.

When a fish is caught, the head is usually pushed as far into the bladder as possible till the snout touches the hinder wall.

The two black eyes of the fish then show out conspicuously through the wall of the bladder.

So far as is known, there is no digestive process in Utricularia, neither is there any sensibility to irritation, Mr. Darwin was unable to detect either, his opinion being that whatever nutriment the plant obtained from its prey was by absorption of the decaying matter, and it would appear that the longer of the two pairs of projections composing the quadrifid processes by which the vesicles are lined, which project obliquely inwards and towards the end of the bladder, acts, together with the spring valves at the mouth of the bladder, in utilising each fresh struggle of the captive for the purpose of pushing it further inwards. If any of my readers wish for specimens of this interesting plant, I shall be enabled in a few days to forward them at a very nominal cost.

Of its destructive powers all I can say is, that out of 150 newly-hatched perch placed in a glass vessel, only one or two were alive two days subsequently, and I hope in a few days to be in a position to speak of its powers *in natura*.

I must also tender my hearty thanks to Professor Moseley for his unselfish kindness and courtesy in furnishing me with notes, and all necessary information, at a time when his hands are full with this term's work, and anyone who knows rightly of the duties of an Oxford professor will agree with me, the position is an arduous one. Such men as Professor Moseley are few and far between, for, like fishermen, I find that amongst scientific men there is an amount of jealousy which ought not to exist, and I therefore regard the action of Mr. Moseley in this matter with such feelings of gratitude as are not easily obliterated.

G. E. SIMMS, jun.
37, Broad Street, Oxford.

[We should feel obliged if our correspondent would send us a bit of the plant, with fish in its traps. His discovery is as important as it is deeply interesting.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SPIDER, Bakewell.—The fly you send is the common female "Stone fly," called the May fly in some parts of Yorkshire, though it appears earlier than the green and grey drake known so generally as the May fly.—ED.

W. J. H., 28, Larkhall Rise, Clapham, S.W., asks where he can get good-sized carp, tench, and perch for stocking a pond, and the price. We cannot tell him. Fish got in this way have been poached from someone else's pond in nine cases out of ten.—ED.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

MR. R. D. BLACKMORE AND GREAT LOACHES.

SIR,—Reading Chapter VII. of that highly interesting work, "Lorna Doone," the other evening, I must say I was perfectly dumbfounded on reading the following:—"In sooth, there were very fine loaches here, having more lie and harbourage than in the rough Lynn stream, though not quite so large as in the Lowman, where I have even taken them to the weight of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb." I have caught as many loaches as here and there one, but this beats all I ever set eyes upon.

Is it possible the small fish of the genus *cobitis* could ever reach such a size? Have you ever heard of or seen such a specimen? Is this a different kind of loach from the ordinary stone loach? for there can be no question from the graphic description given it is the stone loach to which he refers, and none other.

Oh, very well; but why should they reach $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in the Lowman, and certainly not 3 oz., and, as a rule, not more than 2 oz. in any other stream? But even in the Lynn stream they were not quite so large as in the Lowman; then by this plenty there would reach 4, 5, 6, and 7 oz. I was just as surprised as if you had told me you had seen a gudgeon 1 lb. An explanation would be appreciated by
MARK ANTONY.

[We confess we have never seen a loach of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. weight or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. either, for that matter. "M. A." should remember that it is a boy who relates about the catching of these loaches, and boys magnify fish weight even more than grown anglers do.—ED.]

THE WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—A letter addressed by me to Mr. Geen, has been read to the West Central Association, and has apparently given rise to statements in the last "L. B." jottings, which I must ask you to correct. I wish to state that I am not a delegate to that association, consequently have no right whatever to attend its meetings.

I have never asked, or thought of asking, for a special invitation from that association, and have no intention of accepting it now that it has been given, although I fully appreciate their kindly feeling.

My aim and hope, in conjunction with others, has long been to see one good representative angling association which should rise above the level of mediocrity, and be such as all classes of anglers could thoroughly support. Recent movements show the folly of anticipating the establishment of such an institution, or of hoping now for anything better than what we have, except in name, and with one president instead of two.—I am &c.,
T. CRUMPLEN.

May 26, 1884.

EYED-HOOKS AND KNOTTING THE GUT.

SIR,—I have been waiting to see if anyone else would give the true reason for correctly knotting the gut to the eyed hooks; but as Mr. Hall has passed it over in his letter of May 17th, perhaps I may be allowed to say a word on the subject, and as Mr. Hall and I were closely associated in the first working out of these excellent hooks, I think I may do so on fair grounds.

Eyed-hooks are not novelties, though they may be so to most trout anglers, and are undoubtedly so in the small sizes used for river trout fishing.

When we were first studying the question and looking round for someone to undertake to make them, I first of all obtained from Messrs. Kelly and Son, of Dublin, patterns of Irish-made eyed-hooks, but they were all of large sizes, suitable for small salmon flies, or at smallest for sea trout flies, about No. 6 or 7 of the present make; the eyes were all formed straight with the shank, some placed horizontally, and some vertically to the bend of the hook.

We were at that time both in frequent correspondence with Mr. Aldam on angling matters, and, on mentioning our ideas to him, he very kindly offered to get some made for us by a professional hookmaker, and went to very considerable trouble to do so, for which he has our sincere thanks. Who the maker was I do not know, but the hooks did not turn out satisfactorily, and we abandoned their use; and, eventually, I wrote to Messrs. P. Hutchinson and Son, of Kendal, with whom I had previously dealt in such matters, and persuaded them to meet our views, and make us a few gross of various sizes. How well they have done it those who regularly use these hooks know, and I hope that the notoriety they have now acquired will bring the firm their reward in a commercial sense for their trouble and courtesy to us.

But it was only after considerable perseverance and correspondence that the hooks were got to be as correct as they are now made; and as the largest share of this subsequent correspondence was conducted by Mr. Hall, and the alteration in the bend (from the "Sneck Bend," or the flat "Limerick," to the present combination of the "Limerick" bend with "Sneck" side-twist, which Mr. Hall called the "Snecky Limerick") was his idea, the hooks have properly been christened with his name, and he has probably ordered for himself, and friends to whom they were introduced, as many gross as I have used single hooks.

But I am travelling away from the object of my letter in explanation of preliminaries.

When the hooks were designed we had in view a special knot for fastening on the gut, and as the main object of the attachment was to obtain a clean pull on the point of the hook for hooking the fish, and without any side drag or tendency to scratch without entering, we found that to be successful the eye of the hook must be turned upwards in the same proportion as occurs when two pieces of whipcord are looped together and pulled tight.

The pull must be straight on the line of the shank to enable the point to enter properly, and the reason for the shape of the turned up eye and the knot tied underneath the eye (as already twice given in diagram by Mr. Hall) is to obtain this straight pull, which anybody can test for themselves by trying a properly-knotted fly on any soft substance like a piece of indiarubber. Other knots of somewhat simpler kind have been mentioned, but where the gut goes only once through the eye the pull does not come quite in the right place, and there is more chafing between the gut and the steel eye.

The two prime advantages of the knot given by Mr. Hall (which is an old salmon-fly knot) are that (a) it ensures a direct pull on the point of the hook, and (b) the knot acts as a padding between the gut and the steel eye, which prevents the chafing of the soft, wet gut at the head of the fly just where the cracking action of casting is most destructive, and this is the reason why eyed-hook flies stand the "drying action" of casting so long in comparison with hooks tied on gut in the ordinary way. Those who use eyed-hooks know how very much longer a fly will last on one strand of gut, and how easily a favourite fly can be retied upon a dozen strands seriatim, and kill fish as well as ever after a whole season's fishing—or longer, to my knowledge.

Anglers may use their wits to design all sorts of knots to save themselves trouble at the waterside; but they will never beat the knot which the eyed-hook was designed to suit, and which is the best. The complaint against this knot is that it is troublesome to enter the gut twice through the eye in small hooks. I admit that this is the one objection to the system, but it can be got over by a little practice, and by remembering to cut the end of the gut with a knife or scissors in a slanting direction so as to obtain a point to it, for the same reason that a lady points a thread for threading her needle. A gut end bitten off forms a flat brush end, which is difficult to put through a small eye once, to say nothing of the second time; but if the gut is laid on the thumb-nail and cut through at as great a slant as possible with a sharp knife, it gives a good point to thread the eyed-hook a second time, and which I find a great assistance.

Major Turle's knot, given a short time ago, is a puzzle to me, though it might be easy if seen in practice; but I maintain that if anglers wish to use the best knot, and to have their flies stand "drying" longest, they should stick to the knot as already published in Mr. Hall's diagram. The knot given by Mr. James in your paper of May 17th is a good knot in itself, and when used on a salmon fly headed with a soft gut loop it "jams up" tight and becomes secure; but he will find it unsafe with a rigid eye of steel, and it does not obviate the other objection of chafing the single gut where it passes through the eye. This is the objection to any knot which passes only once through the eye. The doubly entered gut and knot underneath the eye are safer and last longer than any other.—I am, &c.,
GEORGE BANKART.

Leicester.

[It is curious how often practice and theory vary, or appear to do so, for since using Major Turle's very simple method of fastening the gut to the hook we have missed, or fancied we missed, a smaller proportion of rises than with the "double entry" knot. Major Turle never uses anything else himself, and yet he probably has killed more heavy trout than anyone else who ever used the eyed-hooks. A 2-pounder is to him a "little beggar," fish from 3 lb. to 8 lb. being more in his line, as we can testify from experience when fishing with him. But Mr. Bankart's arguments in favour of the double entry of the gut are very sound, and as our readers have descriptions of both plans they can please themselves.—ED.]

THE HERTFORD FISHERY.

SIR,—I should not think of troubling you again on this matter were it not that the "lessee" distinctly challenges me for "proof" of any one fishing in the said waters without a ticket. From the nature of the case I could not offer "proof" unless I knew the names of all the parties whom I saw fishing, and also were acquainted with the list of ticket-holders. The only kind of proof I have to offer is the testimony of one or two of the worm-fishers themselves who distinctly told me that they took no tickets. If they did take tickets

other lures were reduced to the same comparative standard. Thus, Mr. Editor, at your own particular request, I have eliminated all fractions from my results, giving only one decimal, so that the work may be understood as having a certain substantial basis.

And now, on returning to the subject of the tables themselves, I must state my reasons for the division into four groups which there appear. Group I. consists of flies which have, at least, been used more than ten times; or, if not, have caught one-twelfth of the number of fish taken by the standard fly.

Group II. consists of good flies, all above the standard, which, however, except in the case of the red ant, do not conform to the requirements for entry in the preceding division. The red ant is a case of exceedingly high merit, but one which it is believed would have been much lower had the record in an old part of the diary been not defective on two occasions, giving in these isolated instances only the successful fly of the cast, whilst omitting the red ant and other flies that had not caught fish. All the flies in this division are wholly exceptional cases, as being used on only a limited number of very propitious occasions, and each, with the omission of the single instance named, though not used on ten days, had been brought into requisition five times or more, at least.

The third group consists of flies employed more than once, but not on ten occasions, which do not attain the standard; or of those which, if exceeding that amount, have not been employed five times so as to qualify them for the second group.

The last division is formed of flies used only once, and the uncommonly high figures of some of these is owing to the fish having all been caught by one fly. The column of months simply indicates the periods in which my diary shows that I have personally been most successful with flies opposite which the name of any month is placed. If more than one month is named, that which is first is the period in which the greatest number of fish were taken, by the fly indicated, on one occasion. The abbreviation "gen." implies deadly at all seasons. I express no opinion on the results of practical fly-fishing. The tables are for the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE to compare with the tables of their own memories, so as to ascertain if, having tried conclusions with trout, these conclusions are the same as my own.

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

NORTH DEVON NOTES.

ONE of the most provoking things that can happen to a tradesman is to have people continually coming into his shop and taking him away from his work to ask questions, and, for a stranger, it is almost (when merely to gain information and not to benefit the tradesmen) an impudent thing to do. I remember being told by a fishing-tackle maker in Devon, it is the more provoking, because, he says, they ask all the information they can with the hope of getting their fishing for nothing; and the fact was crowned when he told me, after getting all information that was possible, the Cockneys have the impudence to produce their tackle, &c., and ask to be shown which fly, &c., would do, as they had had a new outfit before leaving town and did not know which to use, and then coolly add, if I want anything I shall know where to call; he added, ninety-nine times out of one hundred they never come back. I was told also that one gentleman had done all this, and the informant told the gentleman he had fishing to let, and he had the impudence to go and fish the water without thinking of thanking him, much less paying for the ticket. After this, I do not wonder when gentlemen go into a strange town that all information is withheld, but when I go into a town I make it my business when entering a tackle shop first to buy and then ask for correct information and I can get it. So some of my readers will now know how it is they are treated coolly when seeking a day's fishing, especially in Devon. I have fished the rapid streams of Devon many a season, and am therefore able to give my experience of the northern part, where for many years I have settled. The capital of North Devon is Barnstaple, the putting-up place for the district; trains run conveniently through the district and close to the rivers, where at any time a decent day's fishing can be had. The salmon rivers are the Taw and a branch stream called the Mole, with the Torridge at Torrington ten miles away by rail. There are many trout streams come-at-able, viz., the Bray, nine miles; the Ockman, running into the Torridge; the Higher Mole, the Higher Taw, the Yeo, and many streams which are free by asking for. All are fished by the fly, and, although the minnow, for trout only, is forbidden, yet many a basket is filled by means of it. Salmon and peal fishing is only practised by means of the minnow; and with a greenheart rod of 10 feet, an assortment of minnows all bright, a salmon fisherman is rigged, but in his pocket must be a 10s. 6d. licence, or the water bailiffs may require his name and address, with the penalty of £1, or seven days in service of her Majesty, with low diet. I have long detested the minnow-fishing, because it is dreadfully provoking being out for many hours without sport, and after toiling on up stream fishing (which is the most successful in rapid streams) to find a brother-Zebedee in the water scraping his minnow one side to the other, and, although a fly-fisher, I have generally, taking the average, had more and larger fish to show. Often, when meeting with such a one, on comparing fish, I have had the most fish, although I use but three or four flies from February to September; silver blue, varying in size for high or low water; cow-hair varied in

colour, light and darker, with the never-failing blue upright, which Devonshire is noted for, especially as the ginger-blue hackle from the old-fashioned game bird is still to be had here and there. My rod is an 8 feet greenheart, a medium size waterproof line with 1½ yards of gut casting line—in all my experience I never wanted a longer rod, except for peal or salmon, which I do not care much for. The rivers of North Devon are generally very low after May until September, when a noted pack of otter hounds meet in easy distances and rare good sport is always had, and a thorough knowledge of the streams is obtainable. Many a gentleman comes down to Devon and, running with the hounds, has made the acquaintance of Mr. Connop, who has generally, with his liberal heart, given a day or two's peal fishing on the Mole—he being owner of the best portion of that river. A day is well spent upon any of the streams which North Devon is noted for, away in the river Bray running between miles of wood with hills on both sides which shelters the wild stags of Exmoor, many an hour have I gazed at the deer in their unfettered state feeding by the heath or lying between the ferns with only the water's trickling noise to be heard. Here on these waters fished Cutcliffe who wrote his book on "Rapid Stream Fishing," the best book of the kind ever written, and containing the most reliable information; and, although some years have passed since then, the fishing in the streams has not improved. Twenty years ago ten or twelve dozen fish was the average number for a day's sport, fish running from 3 oz. to 6 oz. (the fish in Devon do not run large, but on another stream, which I leave for another day, fish from 4 oz. to 10 oz. may be had). The neighbourhood in which the Bray is situated has been noted for the breed of "fishing colour" fowls, although now very scarce. I now must leave off and promise my readers a continuation at an early date, when I have wet my line, and will give my experience day by day, stream by stream. I will not terminate my remarks without adding that should any one require any of the feathers—"reds" and black reds—which Devon is noted for, through the editor, I could get any quantities of hackles, but I fear the blues are all bought by the tackle shops.

RUSTY GAME.

[We can quite endorse "Rusty Game's" remarks on the impertinence of some town anglers, who seem to think the country tackle-maker only exists to furnish information to them gratis. Our own practice invariably is to give a fair order for flies, which generally prove the best to use, and then ask for what information we may want.—ED.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee took place at the Bald-faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday evening last, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. There was a very good muster of delegates and Lea bailiffs, including Messrs. Philips, High, Bagley and our friend Mr. George Oram, who, though not quite his old self yet, is nevertheless making rapid strides towards complete recovery. From the West Central Association were Messrs. Beckett, Field and Bonvoisin.

After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous evening, the secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, explained that in accordance with the circular he held in his hand, the most important item of business down for discussion that evening were the recommendations of the joint committee of the three associations in the matters of coarse-fish breeding and the renting waters. The speaker said these were matters of such importance, and upon which it was desirable there should be, if possible, unanimity of opinion, that having in view the fact that there had not been sufficient time given the members of angling societies to discuss these questions, he would strongly recommend that the discussion should stand over till the next monthly meeting night in March, every society on the East Central Committee's books meanwhile to receive a circular containing particulars of joint committee's recommendations. This very excellent and practical resolution was unanimously adopted. A somewhat desultory but, so far as I could follow it, very interesting conversation then took place, in which Messrs. Beckett, Field, Murphy, Manning, Philips, Ghurney, Bonvoisin and others, as members of the joint committees, gave several important explanations of the aims and anticipated results of the printed recommendations, all of which gave great satisfaction and cleared away a number of misapprehensions. The sum of £6 (£2 each) was then voted as a reward to the three police constables who recently captured a huge net in the neighbourhood of Clapton, well known by the significant name of the "Clapton Monster," convictions being obtained against the persons using it, and the magistrate making an order for the destruction of the "sweet little thing," vide recent number of the FISHING GAZETTE. Afterwards attention was called by bailiff Phillips to the destruction of small fish in one of the Lea ditches by a barge discharging what I understood to be "blue billy." Mr. P. explained that the dead fish, as witness the sample he had brought up, consisted entirely of roach, dace, bleak and a minnow or two, but not a single "tidler." Ah me! the same old tale, 'tis the good that die, the good-for-nothing that live and thrive. Never mind, Phil, let's hope for better things when the amended Rivers Pollution Bill is passed, and, if anglers as a body, can be of any use in getting it pushed on they should certainly not hang fire.

As far as sewage is concerned, recent experiments seem to clearly prove that its purification can be made fairly remunerative, and the

TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE DEADLINESS OF ARTIFICIAL TROUT FLIES.

	GROUP I.				Months in which most were caught on one occasion, &c.	Seductivity.	Times used.	Numbers caught.	Months in which most were caught on one occasion.
1 Light grey mallard wing; body, bright green peacock's harl; legs, orange or blood-red hackle	100	109	532	General					
2 March brown	99	21	109	April; also later					
3 Grey mallard wing; body, peacock's harl; legs, furnace hackle	97	12	54	October; gen.					
4 Quill blue dun	96	8	47	July					
5 Water-cricket	96	20	36	September and March, &c.					
6 Double red and furnace palmer.	90	11	20	September					
7 Ronald's whirling dun	88	72	307	June and after, to September					
8 Broughton point	88	18	43	June					
9 Orange-red hackle. Pennell's form.	87	50	239	From middle March to Aug.					
10 Black palmer	87	149	426	General					
11 Grouse hackle	87	19	73	September and April					
12 Wings, double, partridge and grey; legs, black transparent hackle	86	18	29	September					
13 Light grey mallard wing; body, ostrich harl; legs, black hackle	84	7	56	August, March, &c.					
14 Francis	84	15	35	October and September					
15 Orange blue dun	83	14	70	From April					
16 Blue dun	82	55	262	April; gen.					
17 Dark mackerel	82	14	31	September from July					
18 Hawthorn fly	81	41	133	July					
19 Cowdung	80	15	90	May, &c.					
20 Little pale blue dun	78	21	41	October					
21 Cochybonddu	77	154	474	May; gen.					
22 Landrail hackle	76	21	41	March, &c.					
23 Orange fly	75	38	165	End May; gen.					
24 Black gnat	73	64	253	April; gen.					
25 Iron blue dun	72	19	81	End May and after					
26 Dotterel fly	68	10	13	September					
27 Red palmer	66	82	151	September and gen.					
28 Fern fly; yellow silk body	63	16	41	September					
29 July dun	59	12	24	July					
30 Stone fly	59	10	25	April to June, July in Norway					
31 Fern fly; ribbed with gold twist.	58	19	52	Sept. from June and May					
32 Blue bottle	58	16	26	June to September					
33 Oak fly	58	11	29	End of April					
34 Yellow dun	56	11	37	May and after					
35 Jenny spinner	55	33	52	July and August					
36 Black ant	52	27	63	August and September					
37 Peacock fly	47	13	24	September from June					
38 Brown palmer	47	11	6	August					
39 Snipe, light hackle	46	11	18	August, &c.					
40 Mallard wing, orange body, red hackle	40	11	72	End May					
GROUP II.									
41 Sand fly	241	6	18	End of April					
42 Gravel bed	148	9	39	End of April and after					
43 Red ant	128	37	118	Middle of Aug. to end Sept.					
44 Governor	125	5	14	October, November and Feb.					
45 Hoffland's red spinner	116	6	43	June					
46 Red spinner	103	5	15	From end June					
GROUP III.									
47 Pale evening dun	170	3	4	July					
48 Yellow Sally	121	3	9	Sept. and end May and Aug.					
49 Iron blue hackle	118	3	7	End July					
50 Plover fly	108	3	10	August					
51 Wings, light starling; tail, two mottled whisks, &c.	104	2	4	September					
52 Marlow buzz, ribbed with tinsel, with long thin body	104	2	6	September					
53 February red	98	3	7	March					
54 Greendrake	98	7	13	June, Wales					
55 Large grey mallard	98	7	13	September and April					
56 Greenwell's glory	97	3	6	September					
57 Cinnamon	92	5	10	October					
58 A kind of blue dun	88	2	6	July					
59 Barm fly	85	6	18	July					
60 Pennell's green	84	5	21	September					
61 Grouse fly	84	3	20	July					
62 Partridge hackle	82	4	11	March					
63 Legs, transparent fiery brown; wings, light red; body, light grey silk	81	7	19	September					
64 Wasp fly	80	5	10	End of May					
65 Grey palmer	78	5	19	September					
66 Bracken clock	78	5	17	September					
67 Turkey brown	71	4	9	May					
68 Pennell's brown	67	5	19	September					
69 Grey dun	66	4	9	September					
70 Dark drone	64	5	12	February to March					
71 Light mallard wing, red worsted body, and red hackle	58	6	15	May					
72 Needle brown	57	6	32	August and July					
74 August dun	53	5	9	August					
73 Alder fly	55	2	11	April					
75 Dark starling hackle	50	6	18	August					
76 A kind of large red spinner	44	3	2	September, early					
77 Dotterel blue hackle	43	4	3	July, August					
78 Wrentail	43	6	3	End August to September					
79 Starling fly	40	7	12	August					
80 Sky blues	39	6	6	May, &c.					
81 Light starling hackle	38	4	7	August					
82 Golden dun midge.	24	6	4	July					
83 Little chap	23	2	2	September					
84 Shamrock willow fly	21	6	7	June to July					
85 Great whirling blue dun	17	4	3	End June to September					
GROUP IV.									
86 Black silver horns	403	1	1	September					
87 Peacock fly with pale brown-marbled wings.	242	1	1	June					
88 Caperer	121	1	1	August					
89 Black gnat hackle.	115	1	2	February					
90 Ginger wing and hackle	104	1	4	September					
91 Pennell's yellow	74	1	4	April					
92 Gold-eyed gauze wings	67	1	1	July					
93 Small gaudy mixed winged fly	57	1	1	September					
94 Woodcock hackle	24	1	5	September					
95 Coachman	10	1	2	September					
96 Grey winged fly	0	1	0						
97 Wings, starling; orange body	0	1	0						
98 A hare's ear dun	0	1	0						
99 A grizzled furnace hackle	0	1	0						
Standard of unity in this scale									80
Fell off the hook									191
Average of seductivity (the test number)									78
Times used									1534
Numbers caught on the flies									4962 = 5153 total.

In answer to your request, Mr. Editor, I enclose a second set of tables of flies, supplementary to the first. The results in the former list were averages taken from gross totals, irrespective of conditions. The numbers now given are the results of the reduction to one uniform standard of the proceeds of each "fly-cast's" fishing. Every cast, when in use, has been supposed to catch as many fish as there were flies on the collar, so that a bad day's sport is, as far as practical results are concerned, in every respect equivalent to a day yielding an abundance of fish. This is only fair, for whilst on a day of great deeds trout will take almost any fly presented, we find that the bad occasions are most probably the better periods for testing the qualities of flies. The columns, however, which are given in these second tables, are only the results of the system of averaging just named, which system represented each fly as doing its duty if catching one fish. The representative number of any fly when found to be above one, denoted good work; whilst figures less than unity pointed to inferiority. The labour in this part of the work was indeed simply immense, for as there were 4962 fish caught by a similar number of flies, so there was at first a number of vulgar fractions corresponding to the total of the figures in the second column. These in the case of each fly had to be reduced to decimals, then added up, and finally divided by the number of occasions on which the lure, the subject of attention, had been used; the result being one (unity) if the fly had just done the work required. After the 99 flies had thus been treated, the quantity to two places of decimals, representing the best fly of the number, and the one which had caught by far the most fish, was taken as the standard of percentage merit. This fly, my own favourite pattern of the grey mallard, had been found to have a personal value of 1.24, which quantity was then considered to be equivalent to 100; after which all

four p.m. we again found ourselves in the train bound for London, in the company of several gentlemen who take great interest in sewage matters, amongst whom may be mentioned Captain Bedford Pim, late member for Greenwich; Mr. J. W. Denton, vice-chairman of the Richmond Union, member of the Thames Valley Sewerage Board, and the proposer of the resolution at the meeting of that board on the 8th inst., by which the suggestion of the Local Government Board, that the Thames Valley Sewerage Board should hold a conference with the West Kent Main Sewerage Board was, unfortunately, it seems to us, declined; and Mr. Alderman Gould, of Kingston-on-Thames. We had a very busy time of it on the return journey, as our fellow-travellers hold most decided opinions on the sewage question, in which we do not coincide. But we earnestly trust that all will aid us in unceasingly urging the necessity which exists, of providing means for preventing the pollution of our beautiful rivers and streams, so that at no distant date they may again contain millions of fish, to increase the food supply of the country and to afford healthy and enjoyable recreation to all lovers of the gentle art.

AUTUMNAL GRAYLING FISHING.

By FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

I THINK that I am pretty near the mark in saying that every devotee of either rod or gun has some particular branch of his respective sport that he likes the best; at least I know that it is so with regard to myself, for although an enthusiast on any matter connected with angling, yet I know no phase of that sport to which I look forward with greater eagerness, or enjoy the fulfilment of so much, as a real good day's grayling fishing in the fall of the year.

A better comparison was never made between the relative merits of the trout and the grayling than the one made by Mr. Francis in his "Book on Angling," wherein he styles the former the gentleman of the streams and the latter the lady; in fact, as regards the amount of sport they yield respectively, I consider there is very little to choose between them, and the same remark applies to their edible qualities. Of course, a grayling hooked during the summer months makes only a very poor show of resistance, no more does a trout if caught in winter; but a half pound grayling at the end of a fine gut or hair cast in September or October is a different matter altogether, as many of my readers, no doubt, know well from actual experience.

Having resided for the best part of my life on the banks of the river Yore, which is a better stream for grayling than for trout fishing, I have had ample opportunities for observing and studying the habits of this beautiful fish, and it is with a view of making known to my brother anglers the result of those observations that I am engaged in writing the present article. The list of flies that I shall give is collected from many sources, some of the patterns having been given to me by the best grayling fishers on the Yore and Wharfe. To the experienced of my readers, I do not expect to impart much information, as no doubt most of the patterns will be familiar to them, although a few of them, perhaps, may not. I trust, however, that the tyro in this branch of the gentle art may be able to pick up a few hints that will be of service to him, and should this be the case, I shall feel amply satisfied.

Large grayling are not really in good condition or fit to be taken before the end of August, and in my opinion on a good grayling stream no fish over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight should be allowed to be caught before that time. Fish under that size, or shott grayling, as they are called, are in condition much earlier. I will start, therefore, with September, and consider the flies most suitable for that month.

No. 1.—THE LIGHT OLIVE BLOA.—Wings, inside of dotteril's wing or the smaller quill of a seagull; body, pale white French silk; legs and tail, pale blue hackle. Remarks: This fly is given by Jackson in his practical book on fly-fishing, and sometimes, towards evening, I have found it answer well. He also recommends the same wing with yellow legs and body, but the pattern given above is the one that I generally employ.

No. 2.—DARK OLIVE BLOA.—Wings, inside of water-hen's wing; body, lead-coloured silk; legs, dark olive hackle; tail, three small rabbit's whiskers. Remarks: This is a grand fly, if dressed small; I am indebted to Mr. Jackson for this pattern also, and I rarely fish on cold days in September or October without giving it a trial.

No. 3.—THE WHIRLING BLUE DUN.—Body, squirrel's red brown fur, mixed with yellow mohair, tied with yellow silk thread well waxed; tail, one or two whisks of pale ginger hackle; wings, feather from a starling's wing, not very light; legs, pale ginger hackle. Remarks: This is a fly that is not held in very great estimation on the Yorkshire streams, excepting perhaps the Rye, but in the

Worcester district and also on the Dove it is a very noted fly. The pattern given above is Ronalds, who varies it somewhat from that given by Mr. Francis, "Ephemera," H. Wade, and others. The best imitations of this fly that I have ever seen were some that the late David Foster sent me last autumn and no doubt his sons can still supply the same pattern; for my own part I prefer No. 2, as being a better killer, at all events in Yorkshire.

No. 4.—THE APPLE GREEN DUN.—Wings, either dark starling, or taken from inside of waterhen's wing; body, apple green silk; legs, dark olive or black hackle. Remarks: I obtained the pattern for this fly from Hensburgh, the water-keeper at Bake-well, and have since then killed well with it on the Yore and Wharfe; it is best to be provided with both dark and light shades of wing. I received a letter from a gentleman quite recently stating that he had found it an excellent killer. I had given him one or two as a sample.

No. 5.—THE NEEDLE BROWN.—Body, a fine shred from the yellowish quill of a thrush's wing; legs, a grizzled blue dun cock's hackle; wings (under ones) starling's feather used sparingly, and above that two fine slips of hen blackbird's wing. Remarks: This fly is quite as great a pest to the fly-fisher as the black midge; the pattern given above is Mr. Francis's, and dressed very carefully and finely this makes the best imitation of the natural fly that I have seen. Mr. Francis remarks that Jackson alludes to it under the name of the little brown, I do not think so myself, as No. 57 in Jackson's book, which he styles the little willow fly, would give a better imitation. Mr. Ford, in his excellent manual on fly-fishing, evidently shares my opinion, as, under the heading of "Needle Brown," he gives, among other synonyms, "Willow fly," but the angler must not confound it with the next pattern that I give. Mr. Wade mentions it in "Halcyon" as the "Spanish Needle," but his pattern represents the insect known on the Wharfe as the "Musk Fly," and a rare killer it is.

No. 6.—THE LARGE WILLOW FLY.—Body, moles'-fur, spun sparingly on yellow silk; to be hackled with a grizzled hackle of copperish hue. Remarks: This is a standard grayling fly, in fact, I have fished on days when no other fly would do. It is easy to recognise it as it flutters across the stream in the sunshine of a warm September day, and the sight of them usually heralds good sport, if the angler has a good sample tied on fine gut on hair.

No. 7.—THE HONEYDUN BUMBLE.—Body, orange floss silk ribbed with bronze peacock's harl, hackled with a honeydun hackle. Remarks: Although a purely fancy pattern, I do not know any fly that can compete with this as a killer of grayling. I believe that I am correct in saying that Mr. Eaton of Matlock Bath was the inventor of it; and most decidedly no one can make them like him. I have killed some hundreds of fine grayling with this fly, and consider it as great a *sine qua non* on the cast of a grayling fisher as the traditional red hackle is in trouting; in fact, more so, as the latter is a fly that I seldom use.

No. 8.—THE RED TAG.—A bright red cock's hackle, wound upon a body of green peacock's harl, with a scrap of scarlet floss silk at the tail. Remarks: Another excellent fancy fly. I am indebted to a Worcester gentleman for this pattern and can strongly recommend it on dull autumn days, when there is no particular fly upon the stir. It should be fished at the tails of streams sunk a little below the surface of the water. I have found it taken almost invariably by good fish.

No. 9.—THE BLUE BOTTLE.—Wings, jay's quill feather; body, blue tin foil, ribbed with purple silk; legs, dark olive hackle. Remarks: As this fly gets weak as the cold weather advances, they fall upon the water, and are eagerly taken by both grayling and dace.

No. 10.—THE HOUSE FLY.—Body, light brown silk, ribbed with drab ostrich harl; wings, lark's quill feather; legs, grizzled hackle. Remarks: This is Jackson's pattern. I have tried it on several occasions, but am inclined to give the preference to the blue bottle.

To be Continued.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

IT has always been customary to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of this important society by what is termed an annual supper in which tripe is considered the chief dish. This interesting event—for it is like the return of a birthday—took place on Monday evening last in the spacious club room at Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden; and under the presidency of the esteemed father of the club, Mr. F. G. Pearce, who was supported in the vice-chair by Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, and Mr. Thomas Huggett. Amongst those present were: Messrs.

F. H.
Dr. T.
James
Lema
Blame
John
Russe
suppe
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mutto
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"The
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Mr. L
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I am quite in accord with B that "it is incumbent to maintain a stock of the finny tribe for the largely-increasing number of anglers, whose constant visits must decimate its numbers to a terrible extent." But would it not be well occasionally to trace effects to causes—to ignore the parrot-cry that fair angling can never injure a fishery, and denounce fearlessly and outspokenly, which but few writers as yet have done, the "terrible extent" of decimation occasioned by the demoralising and pot-hunting system of gross weights?

CONSISTENT.

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHOWERS BEFORE.

Past is the Winter numbing;
The Spring-time fast is coming;
 Soon in each nook,
 My babbling brook,
By thee will bees* be humming,
Half-hid in flowers—now growing—
Then blooming—whilst, on-flowing,
 Thy charming stream,
 Thro' changing gleam
And shifting gloom, keeps showing.
How—glancing in the glory
Of Sol's rays, raining o'er thee—
 Bright brook, thou't shine!
 His light divine—
Half-veiled—will, *con amore*,
Thy trouts bring on their rising
At March-browns appetising;
 I'll hook a lot—
 If *Luck* I've got—
The deadly lure disguising.
Last Monday—by the Powers!
That seventh of March of ours—
 There fell that day
 (As Pat would say)
Our first of April-showers.
I said "You'll make, old fellow,
The primrose yet more yellow,
 And violet, sir,
 Peep purplier,
You are so soft and mellow!
"And if snowdrop and crocus
Within my muse's focus
 Come not, you know
 Those blossoms blow
Ne'er where you seek to soak us.
"Nurselings of Art—not Nature's
Free-born, wild-floral creatures
 That to yon skies
 Our thoughts bid rise—
The angler's moral teachers.
"Good day! sweet Angling-weather;
But when, with fur and feather,
 Me on the feat
 You chance to meet,
We'll chat again together."

A. R. I. E. L.

March 12th, 1881.

* Umble-bees, as Uriah Heep would say.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[Advrt.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A LOVER OF THE SPORT.—You had better get Stewart's "Practical Angler"; it can be had of Mr. W. J. Cummins, fishing-tackle maker, of Bi hop's Auckland, for 2s. 8d. in stamps.

J. C., Little Tower Street.—The only place we know of that would suit you is Winchester. The trout run large, are very numerous, and a skilled hand will always make a fair basket. You cannot get good trout-fishing by paying for it nearer than Winchester.

H. T. H.—In the GAZETTE for 1879 and 1880 we published some recipes for varnishing rods.

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

SIR,—Verily I am overwhelmed with all the opprobrious epithets and inuendos that have fallen on my head for having set forth an opinion on the use of artificial flies which does not fall in with that of Mr. G. F. Horsley. His letter, written in answer to mine (after second thoughts, I suppose, as "it would have been a waste of time, and unprofitable to explain his knowledge (?) and experience to one who seems fast wedded to Pennell's theory of three flies," which is untrue, as, though I use only four flies, they are not Pennell's)—his letter, I say, deals with a subject on which there are dozens of widely different opinions, and having found some one who does not hold the same theory as himself, he forthwith proceeds to pour forth his invectives against him with totally unnecessary warmth. However, I will try to answer some of his wrathful arguments (?) in as mild a tone as my ruffled spirit will allow. I suppose that Mr. Horsley is a well-known and widely celebrated angler, or else he would hardly have the "cheek" to call Mr. Pennell's theory on flies "theoretical stuff," as Mr. Pennell asserts in his "Practical Angler," that he has tested his "three-fly system" (here called "theoretical stuff") in nearly every river and lake of Great Britain and Ireland, and by their use has always secured a larger and heavier basket than any other anglers that accompanied him. I presume, therefore, that his opinion on flies is worth something, and not merely "theoretical stuff," as Mr. G. F. Horsley is pleased to call it. He next cites an instance of which I don't see the point at all, as it is a well-known fact that when trout are rising at any particular fly on the water, they will usually rise far better at an artificial one of an entirely different species. Mr. Horsley next remarks that the "three-fly system" is only adapted to cockney sportsmen; here, I think, Mr. Horsley's "cheek" reaches a climax, in coolly calling such great authorities as Mr. Pennell and Mr. Stewart cockney sportsmen, for holding opinions opposite to his own. The latter gentleman, who advocates the use of six flies only, is under Mr. Horsley's ban, I suppose, and his opinion on this subject merely "theoretical stuff"! In stating that the "colour of a fly does not die out before it has earned its just reward," I think Mr. Horsley must have been wandering in his mind. As a matter of fact the colour dies out of a fly almost immediately, or very soon after it is put into the water (by that time, I suppose, it has earned its just reward), and this is one of the great arguments against the "many-fly" system.

In conclusion, let me state that it is now three seasons ago since I became an adherent to the three-fly, or rather four-fly system (for I use four only); and far from "keeping the result a profound secret," as I am gratuitously advised to do by Mr. Horsley, I am now convinced that it is as sound a theory as the other one, since I have nearly always equalled and often times exceeded the takes made by my brother anglers. Of course I don't deny that the opposite theory is a good one, also, but mine saves time and trouble, and fly-fishing thereby loses none of its charm for me; but I hold that Mr. Horsley ought at least to allow others to have opinions as well as himself, and not write an angry letter against the theories of people which may be just as good as his own.—I am, &c.,

BLUE DUN.

April 3rd.

FEEDING OF SPAWNING FISH.

SIR,—I don't quite agree with your correspondent, Mr. William Bailey, when he says fish never bite, only when they are in condition. For instance, roach will take the fly off the weeds, they are at the same moment depositing their spawn on; and chub will take the locust on the very gravel they are spawning on, and barbel will take the cod bait when the spawn is running from them, and dace will take fly when rough as a file; and, all the world knows, old kelts will take anything from a spoon to a knife or fork.

Nottingham.

FISH AND SPORTSMAN'S FRIEND.

AN EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENT.

SIR,—A rather curious incident occurred to an acquaintance of mine while fishing in some private water near here. He was fishing for trout with the worm, and had, as he supposed, hooked a fish, but what was his astonishment in pulling out the line to find, instead, a half-digested frog attached by the leg to the hook. Evidently the fish had taken the frog some time before, and, in swallowing the worm, the hook instead of fastening in his throat, caught the frog's leg.—Yours truly,

A. WELLESLEY WARNER,

Midland Counties' Angling Repository,
121, Broad Street, Birmingham, April 2, 1881.

(We have read scores of curious fish stories, but we think this beats all.—ED.)

A NEW REMEDY FOR PARALYSIS.

SIR,—I see by your paper (which I take weekly) that Mr. Thos. Newton has had an attack of paralysis. As I do not know him, I venture to write to you about what I know from personal experience is a sure cure for the same.

I feel that when any one is aware of that which may be the means of saving valuable lives it is his duty to make it known.

I send you a book about this treatment (it is adopted in most of the French hospitals), which only requires to be tried to make a convert of any sufferer from almost any form of malady, for you will see that it promotes equalisation of circulation and breaks up congestions. And what is disease but congestion?

sweet intercourse I have had with nature in her midsummer night's beauty; none but sportsmen can enjoy these things as they ought to be enjoyed, and I am weak enough to say that fishing on a summer's evening with the moth for chub is a sport for me, at least, of the highest order.

But hold, I am making a most sweeping digression, and must pull up, for I was going to look at a few names the chub is known by and take his part generally. Izaak Walton called him "Cheven," "Chevin," and "Chevender," and by some of these names he is still known in certain districts; and Father Izaak also says, "Oh, it is a great loggerheaded chub;" and some modern writers, in speaking of him, call him "loggerhead;" but one modern writer had actually the cheek to call him "chuckle-headed." The Scotch call him "Skelly;" the Welsh "Penci;" and the Swedes "Kubb," which latter means "a lump of wood." Now, if we look at these names, we can see that most of them are alluding to the head of the chub (which is, by the way, called in some districts "the large-headed dace"), but why he should be called big-headed, &c., &c., I really cannot imagine, for I have had asplendid specimen of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. weight, and laid him broadside on the grass, and really his head does not look at all out of proportion to this body; shoulders, broad and vast; belly, deep and rounding off; back, a trifle hollow, and ending in a fairly broad spread of tail; but no, look at him from that standpoint, and his head is not out of proportion. If you stare him in the face, perhaps he does look a little full-faced, and he has rather a large mouth, but he really does not deserve the names of "loggerhead," "chuckle-head," &c., &c., that are so often applied to him. Why anglers who angle for pleasure delight to sit on the chub and call him names, I cannot imagine. These people ought to be the last in the world to call him, for there is not another coarse fish that is such a pleasure to capture, nor that can be taken by such a variety of ways, and then for a few minutes he fights well, so they need not grumble on that score. True, he is not worth salt when you come to cook him; for he is woolly watery, and disagreeable, and has such a plentitude of small bones that to eat him would almost be to risk being choked; but I have nothing to with cooking him, my business is to catch him, and I maintain that he is a handsome fish; and, as a sporting fish in all weather, he has not his equal among the so-called coarse fish.

Since writing the previous article about weight of a chub, I have have had authentic information about a chub that I should suppose to be the biggest one ever taken out of the Trent with rod and line. It appears that a Newark angler, named Frank Sims, was some years ago fishing for chub below Newark at what is called the foot of the lawn at Wenthorp, when he was lucky enough to take and safely land a monster that weighed eight pounds. I believed this fish suffered the indignity of being either baked, boiled or stewed, when it ought to have been made beautiful for ever, and not only it, but Frank himself, ought to have been put in a glass case. These facts are well known among certain anglers at Newark. Any one doubting the statement that would take the trouble to write to David Slater, fishing-tackle maker, would have the statement verified. It would be a glorious chub. Should not I like to handle such an one. Why, I should think my mission on earth was fulfilled, and I should have nothing else worth living for.

(To be continued.)

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

I AM glad that my theory on artificial flies has called forth such a courteous argument from the other side of the question as that of Mr. Walbran's, and I hope I may be allowed to say a few words in reference to it.

In the first place, though it may rob fly-fishing of some of its

charm, but very little, I think, it certainly saves an immense amount of time and trouble if the angler only uses about four varieties of flies for his pursuit. It is often very difficult to tell what flies are out on the water, especially in the days of early spring, when one seldom sees any at all. Mr. Walbran remarks in his article, "To my mind, the chief enjoyment of this kind of fishing (fly-fishing) is to match your flies with those upon the water, and then, by casting them lightly as thistledown, deceive the fish with an imitation of the very fly that they are feeding upon." All this sounds very well in theory, but I think Mr. Walbran must admit that artificial flies are very imperfect imitations of natural ones, and that trout can hardly be supposed to take all the various imitations of the same fly, dressed in so many different ways, for the original one. As I said in my former letter, I do not see the good of having so many flies only differing from each other in minor respects, some having a little more colour than others, as the colour fades in the water, and they thereby lose their distinction; though Mr. Walbran cites an incident showing the trout's nicety of distinction very clearly. The following is an incident showing the contrary:—One day last summer, I was fly-fishing on the Derbyshire Wye in Rowsley Meadows, in company with a friend from Liverpool. During the day we each of us used different flies, myself having blue and yellow dun on my cast, and my friend employing a red palmer and black gnat to lure the trout, and had had indifferent success, only catching two brace each. In the evening my friend changed one of his flies and employed a white moth in exchange for the black gnat; I used the same I had during the day. When we left off we had each taken four more brace, after an hour's fishing, during which time the fish scarcely rose at all, and those that did, came very short. I could see that they were rising at some little fly, of a kind unknown to me, but I determined to try whether the fish would not rise at my blue and yellow duns as well as at the fly on the water. It is no take to boast of, but I think it shows pretty well that trout may be caught by any neatly-dressed fly, provided it is a standard one.

Of course, there is no harm in an angler using flies for every hour in the day, if it so pleases him, but this practice is attended with great trouble. It is a great nuisance to have to untie your flies three or four times a day, and to put fresh ones on; this of itself is a good reason for using the same. There is no doubt, on the other hand, that many veteran anglers prefer a good variety, and maintain that trout can better be enticed by changing their lure several times a day; but these gentlemen credit the trout with a nicety of distinction which it is very doubtful they possess; though on some streams, of course, they are far shyer and better educated than on others, and require their taste to be tickled with a neat "imitation," before they can triumphantly be lifted out of their native element by that most useful invention, the landing-net, and from thence be transferred to the angler's basket, thereafter to be eaten with great relish where a hard day's work to effect their capture has been undertaken by the piscator. Although opening the stomach of the first fish you catch is doubtless a good idea for the disciples of the many varieties system, I think few anglers would do so; it would be a dirty job, and the flies inside the trout would not be very easily recognised, being greatly disfigured. However, I have never tried that way, and so do not speak from experience. In conclusion, let me again state, that I think trout can never distinguish between so many flies as Mr. Walbran would have anglers use; that there is no difference between many of them, though dressed slightly different in the water, as the colour dies out; that using only four varieties saves much time and trouble in changing flies; and that fish may be caught by any standard-fly provided it be neatly tied and well made.

BLUE DUN.

is considered how strongly and densely these various parties have concentrated their forces around, in order to carry it by assault. The reason being there is no other assailable position which will repay them for their trouble, even with colourable pretences.

Here there is an appearance of true argument, a something apparently unaccountable; a specious mode of settling the difficulty is found, and plausible reasons are adduced. But what is this vantage ground against which the employers of nondescript flies so boisterously advance? The answer to this question is worthy of a somewhat lengthy expansion, as having to deal with practical experience by the waterside, and as settling the vexed question. Entomologists in their fusty libraries, or in museums, may declare there is no resemblance between their dried specimens and the artificial copy. The degree of likeness, however, need not be such that were a specimen from the angler's flybook placed in the hands of an entomologist, this learned individual should at once be able to name the species; the answer, which it is absolutely necessary that he should give, being, "This combination of feathers, silk and steel, possesses the general conformation of the genus; whilst the size is that of one, two, or more of the species included therein, to one of which the colour and markings very closely correspond." It may at once be exclaimed that "It is exact imitation, which the naturalists advocate; how then can the copy be exact, if the specimen may be mistaken for several species of the same genus that do not differ widely in colour markings?" This is hardly a logical way of putting facts and deductions. Place a specimen of the real insect in the entomologist's hands, then give him the angler's mimic fly, and ask him if there is any general resemblance in the latter to the species first given. He will, unless demented, answer at once—"Yes, this is the result of the handicraft of a very ingenious workman; there is indeed, a very striking likeness, the resemblance being not only generic, but even specific." The same questions are made to the fish; the natural fly, a dun, floats with all its proportions fully displayed down the stream; a trout observes it, appreciates all its exquisite beauty and flavour, and swallows it forthwith. A few moments after, the angler, who has noticed the same insect on the water, places a feathery imitation before the very trout which, having only just beheld and swallowed the real insect, observes the mimic; and thinking that a thing having the same delicate colour and figure must be endowed with flavour as rich, tries to gulp down the second floating organism, and before finding its mistake, has become conscious of pricking steel, and an unyielding tether. But this is not always the case; the real is taken and the unreal rejected. To this the nondescript anglers add that, finding their imitation resembling the fly actually on the water was refused, they have repeatedly put on the cast another fly, of totally different make, such as red and black hackles, or, in other words, the cow-dung, sand-fly, black gnat, house-fly, rudely represented; and that this new fly has been immediately taken. This is the great fact on which the rival fishers base their propositions, and starting from, which they endeavour to overthrow, by crude and absurd theories the deductions of the true angler, the offspring of years of unwearying angling and working out of problems to an end, and not the growth of new ideas while the old are still unripe. The nondescript anglers urge that if fish refuse the copy of a fly actually on the water, and take eagerly that of one which is not there, they are actually caught by nondescript flies; and therefore exact imitation, or, in fact, any imitation at all, is quite unnecessary.

A CORRECTION.—The following words (accidentally omitted) should be added at the end of the first paragraph of Section VI., in our issue of April 15, in order to render the sentence complete:—"It cannot be denied that the imposture is good."

(To be continued.)

THE COARSE FISH PROPAGATION SCHEME AND THE EXPERIMENTS OF MR. CARRINGTON.

THE announcements which appeared in the *Field*, the *City Press*, and the *FISHING GAZETTE*, to the effect that the above scheme had been taken in hand by Mr. Carrington, of the Westminster Aquarium, have been somewhat misleading, as we know from conversation with many prominent anglers, and we think it our duty to put the matter right as far as it is in our power to do so. We paid a visit to the Aquarium the other afternoon and had a very pleasant interview with Mr. Carrington, and we have his authority to state that he never for a moment entertained the idea that any experiments he might undertake in the hatching and breeding of coarse fish, should be considered as the first steps in the direction of re-stocking our rivers. He agrees entirely with us that this re-stocking must be done on a large scale, in the open, and in the neighbourhood of the rivers to be replenished, and he also agrees with us that this can be done most easily, cheaply, and successfully. He took us over

his domain, commencing with his beautiful collection of dried specimens of crabs, lobsters, live cray-fish, &c., then to the tanks containing freshwater fish—dace, roach, trout, tench, jack, &c.—which form a most interesting collection to any angler. The trout look wonderfully healthy, they are Thames fish, probably some of those introduced at Maidenhead or Cookham. Then we saw the Duke of Edinburgh's pike, which has spawned and looks in a very emaciated condition. This patriarch prefers one of his relations as a meal and a two or three pound jack soon disappears down his fish-way, when introduced to his notice. Mr. C. informed us that when this pike was presented to the Aquarium the hooks of the gorge tackle on which it was captured were embedded in its throat, and are there now unless they have been digested; a *post mortem* examination will be held on the fish when he dies, to determine this point. We next examined the trough in which the perch spawn was placed (this spawn, we are informed, was not from Walton, but from a private water). The experiment has been quite successful so far, and thousands of fry have been hatched out and are now about a quarter of an inch in length—most beautiful and lively little fellows they are. We should advise Mr. Carrington to turn them into the Serpentine or some other water before they die, as they certainly will do if kept in the troughs. He might keep a small quantity, just to see how long he can keep them. Only a small portion of the ova has hatched out, the journey to London having doubtless killed much of it. Our readers will see that this is a most interesting experiment, and although it manifestly will never do to take fertilised ova from a river in which it has been safely deposited and in which it has every chance of coming to life naturally, carry it to London to get a small percentage of fry from it to carry back to the river! Mr. Carrington's experiment proves to be true what we stated many months ago, viz., that the simplest way to stock a pond with perch, would be to transfer some perch-spawn from some other water to it and protect it. But we must take care not to take the spawn from a public water. The A.B.C. of our coarse-fish scheme is this:—We obtain parent fish and place them in special ponds, &c., in the open, providing every facility for deposit of spawn. We protect the spawn and eventually the fry from their natural enemies, and then we distribute the fry wherever it may be wanted. Details of the method to be followed, will be given at a meeting at the Society of Arts, which is to be held next month. We are glad to say the three great angling associations have, through Mr. Geen, applied for the room and fixed a day, which will be made known shortly.

A QUICK DRYING VARNISH.

DR. BETTENDORF writing to the *German Fishing Gazette*, recommends the use of a varnish for use in fly-making and hook-tying, made by dissolving gutta-percha in chloroform at ordinary temperature. If a black colour is wanted, a little asphaltum can be added. He says this varnish dries quickly, is not brittle, and resists the corrosive action of the worm fluids.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GREVILLE FENNEL.

[The following is a copy of a circular which has been sent to us for publication. We gladly give it prominence, and trust that our readers will exhibit their appreciation of the great services of Mr. Greville Fennell, by heartily supporting this testimonial.—ED.]

THERE are few men living whose life has been more devoted to the interests of anglers and the ventilation and introduction of angling subjects than Mr. J. Greville Fennell, or, as he is most extensively known, "Greville F."

Mr. Fennell is now in his 75th year, and at the early age of 18 he commenced writing on subjects relating to angling. His special aim at the time was that of making youthful anglers, not only by directing their tastes to a healthy and quiet pursuit, and diverting their minds from many less innocent and expensive habits which might prejudicially colour their future life, but by practically carrying out the idea in presenting the young folks with fishing-rods and all the necessary tackle.

In the literary world Mr. Fennell has been long known as an accomplished writer on the practical character of fish and fishing, not only in his various publications or writings in magazines, but as a valued and able contributor to the *Field*. His works "The Rail and the Rod," which have developed nearly all the angling resources of England, and the various railways which afford facilities for getting to each, have had an extensive sale, and been welcomed and appreciated by thousands of anglers.

His public acts of benevolence have been manifested on several occasions, for, as a talented artist, he has liberally presented his paintings of scenic excellence to various objects connected with angling interests, and latterly the Anglers' Benevolent Society has realised large sums of money by his gifts.

As during the entire period of more than half a century of public

work he has done or from those who are proposed to do. He has not in the fullness of time hoped that a which is now for what he maturity of 1

May, 1882

Thomas S. Esq., £3 3s.; H. Esq., £2 2s.; T. R. Sachs, £1 1s.; R.

THE general club house May 3rd, which had taken place, full attendance of friends from leading clubs, unfavourable weather, Coldham I. teen put in, was very small. An elegant Esq., presiding, Robert P. has succeeded Mr. A. W. 11s., Mr. L. 6th prize, 4 various prizes having suit thanks to conducted the said he did that at the weather, a the club in. Upon the seconded takes place. A vote of Omnibus they conveyed. The next Challenge received the encouraging enclosed donation donation a cheque Angling meeting Toast, eyenings

IMPORT Central Applicat made at

Greville "Oxford" invented for shops in the Rodditch, received from Rev. E. C. registered, the press the respect, an success, imitations, Address, J.

MR. JAMES GREGORY, OF VYSE STREET, BIRMINGHAM, is one of the neatest and best makers of artificial baits in this country, and therefore, in the world; and he is always devising something new. His last is what he calls the "Wheeldon Salmon and Trout Bait." It is a beautifully-made metal bait, made to spin on the "Archimedean" principle. We should prefer a darker colour for the back than gold, as we have frequently found these very brilliant spinning baits not half so deadly as more "quietly" coloured ones. A dark brown or blue back, and white belly, is the nearest approach to the colour of the natural bait, and it is impossible to improve on that. For beauty of finish Mr. Gregory's baits are unsurpassed.

DEATH OF MR. HARRY WIX.

OUR Lea fishing friends will be very sorry to hear of the death of the veteran roach-fisher of the Lea. Henry Wix was born in the year 1804, and was the son of the Rev. Samuel Wix, who was the Rector of Inworth, Essex, and Vicar of St. Bartholomew-the-Less, London. Mr. Wix served his apprenticeship with the Messrs. Rivingtons, of St. Paul's Churchyard; and afterwards commenced business on his own account as a bookseller and publisher, in New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, where he published several valuable works. He took an active part in the establishment of the Booksellers' Provident Institution, and acted for twelve years as one of its directors. He also advocated the shortening of the hours devoted to business; and formed one of a deputation to wait upon the leading booksellers and publishers, with the view of inducing them to close their establishments at an earlier hour, so that the young men employed might have greater opportunities for self-improvement. His house being required for the extension of the premises of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, he retired from business altogether. Being a member of the Stationers' Company, he has latterly for some years been upon the Court of the Company. He died at his residence, Clay-hill House, Walthamstow, on March 27, 1881.—*Publishers' Circular.*

NOVEL USE OF THE TELEPHONE.

L'Electricité states that M. Dohrn has introduced the telephone in connection with his scientific explorations of the bed of the Bay of Naples. By its use the diver and the boatmen overhead are able to communicate with each other quickly and intelligibly, a hint which might be taken advantage of by British divers.

SPRING-FED POOLS.—I was walking with a friend a few years since in some meadows to the north of London, when seeing some small permanent pools of water (fed from springs, most likely), the question was asked as to whether fish would be found therein? Not long after we took a small meshed bait-net, and, to our great surprise, out came several small carp, bright in the scale, and in good condition. This was repeated at another pool, with the same result. My friend returned most of the fish to the water, but took home a couple or so and placed them in an improvised aquarium. We tried some water where we had often seen water efts (male) and newts (female). No carp were here, although several of the former creatures were brought to bank. Now, are these little carp indigenous (so to speak) to these spring-pools, or were they dropped there by herons or other water-birds? No such fish are to be found in the New River, but it is just possible that the "ancestors" of these carp might have been placed in the pools in Queen Elizabeth's time, when a great portion of the north of London was covered more or less with woods, and where the great "Virgin Queen" hawked and hunted.

THE HERO OF THE "GREAT JACK" OF NEWBURY.—Mr. Thomas Newton, a cheery angler, and otherwise very popular with all classes in Newbury, has unfortunately had a paralytic stroke. Mr. Newton caught the big pike that weighed close upon 26 lb., baiting with a live roach of 2 lb. weight. This bait, singular to note, was uninjured—the rush of sharky driving the roach up the gut or gimp. An attendant got into the water to help out the big fish. The capture was made in Sandford Priory Lake, belonging to Mr. W. Chatteris, and an extra-parochial district in the borough of Newbury.—SPOTS.

A FISH "STICK."—People in the West of England seldom sit down to breakfast or tea without a bit of fish. They procure a holly "fork," or limb with the forks left upon it, on which they hang small dabs, or joey whiting, or other cheap fish, over which they throw some salt, and cook a fish as it is wanted. If any readers of the FISHING GAZETTE should go to the west—say to Dartmouth or Slapton Sands, let them try the clotted cream, and if possible the Dittisham plum-jam. Neither will be soon forgotten.—F. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

SIR,—When I read "Blue Dun's" first communication on this matter, I felt a great inclination to reply to him, yet I thought it would be unprofitable, and a waste of time explaining one's knowledge and experience to one who seems to be fast wedded to Pennell's theory of "three flies" for all practical purposes.

I and others who have for thirty or forty years toiled with the rod, and studied the natural history of the many flies trout are partial to, whether land or water bred, their particular seasons, their colour, shape and make up, and the times they are in greatest request—whether morning, noon, or evening—don't care a fig for Pennell's or "Blue Dun's" theoretical stuff. If we chose to select three or even four flies of general merit to fish with exclusively through the season, we could easily do so; but would they satisfy us? I rather think not. We will suppose I have been fishing almost every day since the opening of the season, and it is now say May, and I suddenly resolve to adopt Pennell's theory of three flies, and select them accordingly; the trout are not stirring, but I cast away, of course. Presently a warm drizzling rain sets in, and I know, from study and practical observation, that it is about the time for a certain little fly to be on, or must make its appearance at any hour, and I keep a sharp look out. The fish are beginning to "tumble up," but not at my three "chosen ones," and I stop and scan the water carefully, for the fly I am looking for is a minute little object, with pale blue upright wings and dumpy pea-green body. Yet there he is to a certainty—the little green cowler fly. My heart gives a thump, for I know what is in store for me. "Luckily" I have the fly dressed (if I had not I could have planted myself in a sheltered corner and dressed it in a few minutes, and this accomplishment has often rewarded me with a creel full of fish, which the "theory flies" would not have brought me), on a No. 00 hook, pale pea-green silk, and smallest feather from the sea swallow's wing dressed hacklewise, and I never think it a "great trouble" to change a fly, especially when it's an uncertainty for a certainty; for look you, sir, trout is now dancing and "coming home" fast and furious. This is one instance out of many which occur through the season, and to my thinking the only effect which "Blue Dun's" argument can have will be a pernicious one for all young aspirants to the art, for, if persevered in, it can only end in disappointment and disgust. The system of the "three-fly theory" is only adapted to the cockney sportsman, who can't be "troubled" with changing his fly to something, he is too lazy to learn what. Gutting a trout to find out what he's had for breakfast, would be too "dirty a job" for him; whereas, were I to meet with a man engaged in such an operation, I should pal in with him at once, as a man after my own heart. See him poising on the point of his penknife the "greatly disfigured" atom from amongst the "dirty job" lot in the trout's stomach. Disfigured it may be, and crushed and minus legs and wings; but he knows what it means, his mind is made up, and if he has not its representative ready made, he's got the materials at hand, and the "colour won't die out" before it has earned its just reward. Of course, that man don't angle in kid gloves—such people are better at home with their mother and sisters, if only to save them from catching cold.

In conclusion, I would advise "Blue Dun" to carry out his theory to the end of the season, and keep the result a profound secret, otherwise I think he will find if he sums up that he might with propriety transpose his *nom de plume*, and write himself "Dun Blue."—I am, &c., J. F. HORSLEY.

Southport, March 15.

SIR,—"Blue Dun," in his reply to my former letter on the above subject, characterises my argument as "a courteous one," and I am very glad to think that he feels that my remarks were made in no unfriendly spirit, but that I wrote what I did simply from a wish to represent that vast body of anglers who believe in the other side of the question, who follow nature as their pattern, and who are guided entirely by the seasons, and the flies that are upon the stream. There was once a time, many years ago, when I held the same opinions as he does, but I was not long in discovering my error, and every season that now passes serves to convince me more and more that the only reliable way of taking fish with the artificial fly is to match the flies that you are using with the living ones upon the water, and not only that, but your imitations must be as perfect in size and colour as it is possible to make them.

It is an old saying, but none the less true, that "if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well," consequently I argue that, if it is necessary to imitate a fly at all, that fly must be a more deadly agent if dressed exact to nature; in fact those two essential points, viz., colour and size, form the very keynote of the art of fly-fishing, for, however neatly dressed a fly may be, unless it be the exact shape and the exact size of the fly upon the water, it will be found next to useless. Ask any noted professional fly-dresser, say Mr. Eaton, of Starkholmes; Mr. Ogden, of Cheltenham, Mr. D. Foster, of Ashbourne, or Mr. Cummins, of Bishop Auckland, whether I am correct in this assertion or not, and I will guarantee that their answers will be "yes" in each case. I name these four because I know them all to be thoroughly practical fishermen, and therefore competent judges. Our worthy Editor's opinion I am already acquainted with, and therefore do not include his name.

"Blue Dun" goes on to say that, although my argument sounds well in theory, I must admit that artificial flies are only imperfect imitations of the real insect. To this I reply that I am not content with theory, but base my remarks on actual practice, and have found, during an experience extending over fifteen years, in which I have devoted the whole of my spare time to fishing, mainly with artificial fly and almost exclusively for trout and grayling, that, by adhering closely to nature and using imitations of the very flies that the fish are feeding upon, you kill about three fish to every one that you take fishing haphazard. I do not mean to say for a moment that a man cannot kill fish by following out "Blue Dun's" theory, but I do most emphatically say that the other plan answers the best; so that, although he and his friend killed a good dish on the day that he names, he does not know whether he might not have doubled his take if he had only taken the pains to discover what the small fly was that the fish really were feeding upon.

Now as regards "trouble." I consider that such a word should be unknown to the "born fisherman," and when I tell "Blue Dun" that frequently, during the summer months I rise at 4 o'clock a.m., in order to catch the 5 o'clock train, travel thirty miles, and then walk another seven before I reach my water, wade all day against a strong current, and return home the same night,

he will be able to understand that "trouble" never enters my mind. where a day's fly-fishing is concerned.

With regard to examining the contents of a fish's stomach, it is not nearly so dirty an operation as "Blue Dun" seems to think, but often proves exceedingly interesting; a basin of water, or failing that, the hollow in a rock filled from the river, and a small pair of scissors, is all that is needed. You cut your fish open, turn the contents of its stomach into the water, and when thus diluted it is easy to distinguish the various flies, larva, or beetles that have been recently swallowed. I have sometimes taken from a trout's stomach a solid mass of flies larger than a wood pigeon's egg.

Sometimes, as "Blue Dun" remarks, you cannot discern any flies upon the surface of the water. When this is the case, you must use your own judgment, and most likely you will discover that it is some water-bred fly that the fish are taking, such as the water cricket, the sand fly, or the spider fly.

I will just mention another proof which I consider a most conclusive one. We will suppose that you are starting for a day's fly-fishing, say in April or May, then put on your cast a March brown, a blue dun, and a red spinner, you will find that the fish will show the preference to the first-named flies, which are in the habit of frequenting the streams in the daytime, but as the afternoon wanes and evening advances you will see the browns and duns gradually disappear, and in their stead comes the beautiful transformation of the blue dun and the red spinner. Now you will find that the flies that have yielded you good sport in the daytime are almost wholly neglected, and the imitation of the new comer will be prime favourite. Now I would ask "Blue Dun" why this should be, if the fish cannot distinguish the difference. Let him just try this simple experiment during the coming season, and I think that he will find my words correct, not only as regards this fly, but also with the yellow dun, and its imago, the brown spinner, the iron-blue dun, and its imago, the Jenny spinner. In a case of this kind I immediately take off the other flies, mount three different shades of the respective spinners (in order to hit the right colour), and usually great has been my reward.

And lastly, as the Editor so truly remarks in his footnote to my former letter, what would become of those pleasant chats around the cosy fire, when drawn together by that mystic bond of union so characteristic of true anglers, you compare notes with your neighbour, and pulling out your fly books you show each other the different patterns of flies, all of which have some tale of their own to tell? A man once remarked to me on one of these occasions, "I should think that you would not take a sovereign for that book." "I would not take ten," I replied—not so much for its intrinsic value, but on account of the memories treasured up in it.

In conclusion, I can only say that "Blue Dun" has as much right to possess a theory of his own as I have—and he may be, for anything that I know to the contrary, both an older and a more experienced angler than myself—still, I must acknowledge that I hold totally opposite views to his, that they are based on experience derived from facts only and that "facts are stubborn things."—I am, &c.,

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

"THE FISHERMAN'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent, "Blue Dun," I beg to inform him that a magazine called "The Fisherman's Magazine and Review" was published monthly in 1864-5, at 1s. 6d. each, by Messrs. Chapman and Hall, London, and was edited by Cholmondeley Pennell; but was discontinued after reaching the second volume. It is to be regretted, as it contained a deal of valuable information for the angler, as well as pleasant day chat; besides, the plates were executed in gold and silver. The first twelve numbers I shall be happy to show any angling friend calling at the Free Library.—I am, &c.,

CHARLES LINGS.

Leicester, March 28.

TROUT-FISHING NEAR GODALMING.

SIR,—I should be much obliged for information whether there is any good trout fishing near Godalming or Guildford, and if the water is free or available by subscription for the day. If not there, where could I go for a day's fishing on Easter Monday within forty miles of London that would not be greatly crowded?—I am, &c.,

T. A. W.

[We should advise Winchester; but Easter Monday is a bad day for getting quiet fishing anywhere.—ED.]

THE THAMES MUST BE FREE!

SIR,—Last summer an angler, while fishing from a punt in the upper Thames, near the residence of a well-known baronet, was interfered with, if not rudely insulted, by stones being thrown into the water close to where he was peacefully trying his lures. I forget whether these stones were actually thrown by a lady who is now in Africa, but at all events, a sort of complaint was written to the *Field* that anglers would fish in the said part of the river; but the editor of the journal in question most unhesitatingly declared that the angler had a perfect right to fish at the spot indicated, or anywhere else in the Thames. Bravo, Mr. Francis! Stick to your text!

Another person—or, at least, another landowner—has, it seems, set up an exclusive right of fishing in a certain part of the river. It was therefore high time that these pretentious claims should be settled once and for all; and it was with this object that Mr. Francis Francis, Mr. Brougham, and others sought an interview with the Finance Committee of the Corporation at the Guildhall. I believe few anglers need be uneasy as to the ultimate issue of the steps being taken to search the ancient charters of the City of London.

The River Thames forms the great heritage of all anglers. The village lad, who hardly dares even to look over the parish bridge at the spotted "fly-catchers" at home, will most likely, in time, add another unit to the Great City. He will then fear no magnate, nor magistrate either, so long as he does his duty well and truly. But he will most likely take to angling—in the Thames especially. That the "Thames must be Free" there is no manner of question. These are days of liberal concessions to the noble army of anglers—not of attempted repression. It would, indeed, be a pretty business if every landowner on either side of the Thames set up an assertion of "private rights" of fishing where his land was bounded by our river, to the detriment of everybody else. No. Such a claim will never be set up by His Grace the Duke of Westminster for his beautiful Cliveden property; nor by the young Squire Grenfell for his Taplow estate; nor by the head of the ancient Roman Catholic family of Scott-Murray, at Marlow; nor by the equally historic family of the Catholic Blounts, of Mapledurham; nor by the wealthy Crawshays, of Caversham Park; nor by Mr. Palmer, of Holme Park, Sonning—among many other

higher and lower resident landowners on either side of our beloved Thames, from its very source to the tideway at Teddington.

The Corporation of the City of London is all-powerful in protecting the people's ancient rights. The Corporation wrested that splendid heritage—Epping Forest—from the rapacity of the Essex "land grabbers," and gave back to the people what really was their own, for ever! The Corporation of the City of London in its municipal capacity will in like manner protect and defend the rights of the people, especially of all its many thousands of anglers in fishing everywhere and anywhere in the Thames, for ever, without asking any man's leave. And no matter what these alleged "private rights" may be, they cannot and must not, by any figment of a bold or reckless conveyancing attorney, be allowed to over-ride the ancient public rights. As the mist of the valley disappears before the morning sun, so, I make bold to predict, will these "private rights" be dissipated once and for all.—I am, &c.,

AN OLD ANGLER.

WHO MAKES SILVER CUPS FOR CLUB PRIZES?

SIR,—Could you oblige me by letting me know where I could get a silver cup to give as a prize to our No. 5 Angling Lodge Society?—I am, &c.,

Neptune Hotel, Blackburn.

JOHN HARGREAVES.

[Perhaps some club secretary will kindly answer this.—ED.]

FISHING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

SIR,—Can any reader of the *FISHING GAZETTE* kindly inform me whether there is any fishing to be had at or near the above town; not particular as to sort, but should prefer pike.—I am, &c.,

THAMES SPINNERAL.

FISHING AT LANCASTER.

SIR,—Can any of your readers kindly give me any particulars of fishing in the rivers in the vicinity of Lancaster?—I am, &c.,

VORTEX.

FLY-FISHING FOR ROACH.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in giving your correspondent, "Caxton," a few hints in natural fly-fishing for roach. The common house-fly is best, or yellow cowdung fly, if the house-fly cannot be got. The best time is June and July, in which months roach swarm in mid-water. A small shot on the line is best, so that the fly sinks an inch or two below the surface under trees or bushes, in about three or four feet of water. I have taken roach with the house-fly on the bottom when they would not take any other bait. The roach has a very quiet way of taking a fly; he does not dash at it like a dace, and he has not the caution of the chub. I have taken rudd with the same bait in still water, and in rivers on the surface and on the bottom.—I am, &c.,

CAS.

FOSTER FUND.

I beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following subscriptions towards the above fund:—Penge, 10s.; Hampstead, 16s. 3d.; United Brothers, 7s.; Hammersmith United, 17s.; Mrs. S. Williams (fishing tackle manufacturer), 10s.; Thos. Spreckley, Esq., 5s.; Stepney, 6s.; Cobden, 3s. 6d.; the Duke of Norfolk A.S. 10s. 6d. Secretaries are respectfully requested to send in their lists at once to Mr. Ghurney or myself.—T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—There are many more anglers of the same opinion as "Shut Out," who think the Mundella Act an annoying farce; but if anything is said against the Act you are told the angling clubs were the cause of it. I am a Thames angler, and belong to an angling club held in a well-known town ten miles from London, on the banks of the Thames. That club had a match on March 13th. The fish that were weighed-in consisted of barbel, bream, dace, jack, perch, and chub. All these fish were as full of spawn as they could hold. There happened to be a large meeting that night, and all the members present were of the opinion that we ought to have back the old fence months—from 1st March to 1st June for all freshwater fish except trout and jack fish; for trout from 1st April to 1st September, and commence jack-fishing 1st September, and fish for them right through the winter to the 1st March. I consider the Mundella Act a complete robbery to our rivers, because anglers are allowed to take the fish about a fortnight before spawning time, and deprived of angling when no harm could be done. It wants a combination of anglers to submit their views to the Home Secretary, for him to bring the matter before Her Majesty in Council, to have it altered. Let us hope something will be done before another season.—I am yours, &c.,

H. E. G.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next Central return visit will take place on Tuesday, April 5, at the Anchor and Hope, William the Fourth, Canal Bridge, Old Kent Road.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

March 28.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our return visit (Eastern District) took place on Tuesday evening, 22nd ult., our large room being well filled with company, Mr. Fowler, of the Sir Hugh Myddleton, in the chair, faced by Mr. Barr, of the Little Independent, Mr. Dudmarsh pianist. We had some excellent harmony by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Fowler, Barr, Parkins, Langdon, Bonvoisin (recitation), Latch, Wells, Muddiman, Jennings, Head, Small, Plumstead, jun., Shearman, Scarrott, Hyde, Dear, Boyle, G. Oram, and Sparrow. At the roll-call the following clubs were represented:—Amicable Brothers, Alliance, Amicable Waltonians, Hoxton Brothers, Reform, Convivial, North-Eastern, Alexandra, West Central, Norton Folgate, Hearts of Oak, Eustonian, Little Independent, Sir Hugh Myddleton, and City of London. Also the following clubs not on the Eastern District list:—Anchor and Hope, Bostonian, Bridgewater Brothers, Cadogan, Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Duke of Norfolk, Knights of Knightsbridge,

North-Western, and Messrs. Ghurney. After the roll Mr. bonvoisin, on behalf of the wide memory of some conjunction with a don Society. He he took in the wo He urged them to for his past service by his four-footed netting. Let us our brother angle tunity. The nex

A meeting was 19, Throgmorton it was resolved s meet the wants o and the greatest authorities being supported by Mr T. Cooper, S. C. having read the these gave a goo might briefly be of useful knowle monly prevails, competitions for detrimental to d renting water an combination. A previously offered Gresham," prop he was clearly t were always con first in London. the society, Mr.

Our district v Road, Hamme good muster, as We trust the la Mr. Bonvoisin, within two min trains run eve Clapham Junct —VORTEX. March 28.

This society added strength and the funds a late Mr. F. T. establishment Trout." It is to with no ord in the club-ro and very pretty a splendid colle laid out with a presidential ch oldest member He was support Mr. J. P. Wh W. Randall, A &c. When al entered the roo splendid cod-fi then came som were succeeded plum-puddings made up a su Hatfield, was the highest co joyed and mor become thorou usual loyal tea Silver Trout. This was suc Griffith, which Grace, and the heaviest pike, given by Mes Windeye, had Holman, and and as an an Preservation S recent addition of Mr. W. H. W. H. Broug maintaining a recognised the Club, and esp venting the sla adopt the Tha that assistance but that they one of the bes list, and when

James Haslett in one day pioneered his customers to the capture of 147 lb., and this year, although the report was unnecessarily contradicted, he caught 75 lb. There will, therefore, be no difficulty as to bream. Although I have not included jack in my selection, I fully believe for some places their propagation would be desirable, and many owners of private waters where they have been almost fished out would be glad to replenish their stock. The demand for these fish in those places would, I apprehend, be great. Therefore, whilst only mentioning those which I think best for the lower Thames, I am satisfied Mr. Marston will be making his scheme generally complete by including all the species of coarse fish. If a meeting is called for the purpose of carrying out his suggestion, I shall make a point to attend, unless some important official duties keep me in another direction. In the largely-increasing number of anglers, we want our stocks of fish keeping up; and, as a necessary supplement to this, we shall require what I think is coming—a general law of the sizes of fish in their minimum measurements. The clubs and owners of water will have the option of making their own standard above those sizes, as, for instance, in jack, where some clubs will not recognise them of less weight than 3 lb., and proprietors of private waters prohibit their capture, or, rather, retention, under 4 lb.—live baiting or the dead gorge in the latter places not being permitted. Mr. Marston is rendering effective assistance to anglers by his various movements, and I am sure he will be encouraged and supported in carrying them out; and, referring to his latest, as Messrs. Francis Francis, Frank Buckland, and Stephen Ponder were the pioneers of fish-culture in England in respect to salmon and trout, he will become, as I have said before, the pioneer of coarse fish propagation, the latter being the most desirable for the benefit of all-round anglers, whose number is legion. B.

AUTUMNAL GRAYLING FISHING.

By FRANCIS WALBRAN.

(Continued.)

RESUMING the list of flies that are most suitable for this class of fishing, we next come to:

No. 11.—SMALL OLIVE BLOA.—Wings, starling's quill feather, stained in onion dye; body, yellow silk; cobbler's wax; legs, olive stained hackle; tail, two strands of the same. Remarks: This fly should be dressed small, and is a certain killer of grayling when they are on the feed during September, October, or November.

No. 12.—THE BROWN OWL.—Body, brown fur from a hare's face, ribbed with fine yellow silk; wings, the pale brown quill feather from a brown owl's wing; legs, a red hackle stained in copperas water. Remarks: This is a very favourite fly with some of the local fishermen on the Wharfe, both in early spring and late autumn; one gentleman of my acquaintance uses it all the season, and speaks very highly of its killing properties, but I cannot say that I ever met with much success when I used it; however, being a noted fly in this district, I include it in my list.

No. 13.—THE LITTLE BLACK.—Body, orange silk, with a morsel of magpie's hair to form the head; wings, taken from the dark part of a starling's quill feather; legs, a fursess hackle. Remarks: An excellent fly for grayling during the time that the ant flies are upon the water. I once killed thirteen good grayling with this fly alone on a dull day in September, when fishing on the Yore, near Ripon, and have ever since had a very high opinion of it.

No. 14.—THE BLUE MIDGE.—Wings, feather from waterhen's neck; body, lead coloured silk; legs, grizzled hackle. Remarks: This is a fly recommended by Jackson to be used on mild days in autumn and early winter, especially when likely for rain; on such days I can vouch for its killing properties, as I have sometimes had very good sport with it both on the Yore and Wharfe; it must, however, be dressed very small and neatly.

No. 15.—THE PALE BLUE BLOA.—Body, mole's fur spun sparingly on straw-coloured silk; wings, the fine pale blue feather from a sea swallow. Remarks: Jackson does not mention this fly at all, neither does he the whirling blue dun. I am rather surprised at this, as they are both on the water at the same time, and are equally well taken by grayling; Ronald calls it the little pale blue dun, his pattern being very similar to the one given above.

No. 16.—THE GREY GOOSE DUN.—Body, lead-coloured silk; legs, dark dun goose hackle; wings, starling's quill. Remarks: This pattern is one given by Mr. Ford, in the work of his alluded to previously; I have not yet tested it myself; although I hope to do so shortly. Since the first portion of this article appeared I have received a letter from Mr. Ford, in which he tells me that this fly is a good grayling killer, and I can easily believe it, judging from its appearance. Mr. F. recommends the angler to vary the shades of body and wing.

No. 17.—THE EDEN FLY.—Wings from the outside wing covert of the sea swallow; legs a honey dun hackle; body, pale buff, or light straw-coloured silk, waxed with transparent wax; tail, two or three fibres from a buff hackle of a Cochin China hen; Remarks: This pattern is given by Mr. Aldam in his incomparable work on artificial flies. I had some made up on the strength of his recommendation, and found them kill both trout and grayling very well on the Yore and Wharfe. The best months to use it is from the end of June until the end of October.

No. 18.—DARK GREY MIDGE.—Wings, dark grey, feather of partridge; body, brown or olive silk; legs, grey partridge or grizzled hackle. Remarks: Jackson gives this pattern, but, for my own use, I prefer a simple partridge hackle, made either with yellow or orange silk or body.

Since the issue of the first portion of this article, I have received numerous letters from brother anglers, who have kindly sent me both patterns and samples of grayling flies, but I am especially indebted to A.R.I.E.L., whose charming piscatory stanzas are always so welcome to the readers of this journal, for a really splendid collection of flies. The patterns had been given to him by a friend in Derbyshire, who is a very great expert among both trout and grayling, and the flies that were sent to me were tied from these patterns by Mrs. F. Y. Brocas, 4, Mill Street, Hanover Square, London. This is the first specimen of this lady's handiwork that I have seen, and I certainly never saw a more beautiful sample of small flies—the duns in particular are most artistically tied, the wings standing up in a very natural manner. I cannot classify this collection or give their proper names, as I do not know them, but no doubt Mrs. Brocas will be able to supply the patterns to any angler wishing to give them a trial. I may mention, however, that one set of flies comprised five patterns, that are a cross between the orange bumble and the cochybondhu, all varying in the colour of their bodies and hackles. They appear to me very likely flies to induce Mr. Salmo Thymallus to show up on days when there is no particular fly upon the water, and I hope during next week to give them a careful trial.

To some anglers who believe in only a limited selection of flies, the foregoing may seem to be a rather extensive list; but I use the greater part of them myself, and can answer for their practical utility in this, my favourite branch of the gentle art. I will now, however, leave the subject of flies, and, after giving a few hints to beginners, will conclude my paper with a glance at the other methods of taking grayling during the winter months.

Your casts should be made of either single hair or the very finest drawn gut; for although, when in the humour, a grayling rises more boldly than a trout, if your tackle be coarse or your fly be a bad imitation, he will refuse it at once. One of the finest qualities that a would-be proficient at grayling fishing must possess is a quick eye and a ready hand, as many a time all that the angler sees is a white gleam under the surface of the water—when you see that strike at once with a gentle turn of the wrist, and nine cases out of ten you find yourself fast in a fish. When hooked never attempt to hold him as you would do a trout, but let him run out as much line as he likes. I very seldom lose a grayling when once I have hooked him, and I attribute it entirely to this cause, as their mouths are so tender that the least drag is sufficient to tear the hook from its hold; the landing net should always be used. When grayling will rise to the fly, which is generally the case if the weather is at all likely, I should not wish to use other means for their capture, but there are times when they turn sulky, and refuse flies both on the surface and below the surface of the water, but at such times the angler will find that they will take either a small red worm or a maggot readily. The tackle must consist of about three yards of the finest drawn gut, a No. 2 hook, a single split shot, placed about twelve inches above the bait, and a very small unobtrusive quill float. Fish the edges of the streams, eddies behind stones, and at the tail end of the pools, your bait being about six inches from the bottom. As soon as ever your float gives the slightest indication of a bite, strike at once with a gentle upward stroke, and play the fish gently as in fly-fishing. When using maggots for bait, it is a good plan to carry a little well-soaked pearl barley with you to throw in as feed from time to time, as it draws the fish together, and does not necessitate the waste of maggots, which are articles of value during the winter months.

Another way to fish for grayling during the winter is by using the "grasshopper," which is an artificial bait, only resembling the insect, from which it derives its name, in colour. It consists of a No. 5 hook wrapped round with thin sheet lead until the size of a small gooseberry, only longer in shape; over this crimson and green wool is wrapped in alternate rings, and the affair is complete. What the fish take it to be is a marvel to me; suffice to say that they do take it, and generally the largest grayling. The method of fishing it is to attach it to a fine gut cast about three yards in length; put two or three maggots into the hook, and

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cast the bait into any swirly hold or deep stream likely to be tenanted by grayling, allow it to touch the bottom, and then draw it up a few inches gently, sink and draw again and so on until the whole of the water is thoroughly searched. As soon as ever you feel the tug of a fish strike instantly.* Curious to relate, this method of killing grayling is confined almost entirely to the streams of the Worcester district; in fact, on some waters in that county it is prohibited on account of its slaughtering properties. But although, out of curiosity, I have tried it in Yorkshire, yet I cannot say that I met with great success, and several other anglers of my acquaintance have tried it with similar results. The same gentleman who so kindly sent me the red tag and several other Worcester patterns of grayling flies, also sent me two or three specimens of "grasshopper," varying in both size and colour, giving me the fullest instructions for their use, but, according to my experience, they do not answer on the grayling streams of this county. Possibly the fish are more highly educated, and consider these monstrosities an insult to their good taste. One can enter into Mr. Ronald's theory of palmers representing caterpillar, but I am certain that no living creature yet existed that in the slightest degree resembled these combinations of wool and lead. I should also add that the gentleman referred to recommends a long bamboo roaching rod for this class of fishing.

This, I believe, exhausts all the recognised means of taking grayling during the autumn and winter months; but there is still another way in which they are taken at times and concerning which I have been more puzzled and entered into more arguments than any other subject connected with trout and grayling fishing. I allude to taking them when spinning the minnow for trout; how many times I have been derided for even naming such a thing, and how many times I have put the scoffers to rout by proving it to them practically I should be sorry to have to recount, but I believe that I can assert without fear of contradiction, that I have killed as many, if not more, grayling with minnow than any other man in Yorkshire, on one occasion taking four fine fish in succession. A.R.I.E.L. has enlightened my mind more than any other author on the subject, his explanation being that grayling will, and do, take the minnow when presented to them under certain conditions; and consequently, as very few men fish the minnow in exactly the same way, the diversity of opinion arises. I have generally found them take the minnow under the following circumstances, and should feel much pleased if A.R.I.E.L. would kindly inform us if his own experience is identical:—

- 1st. When the water is perfectly low and clear.
- 2nd. When wading up-stream, and employing the very finest of tackle and smallest of minnows.
- 3rd. When using the natural minnow only.
- 4th. When spinning very slowly, or when the bait is just veering round with the stream.

I may add that I have met with a single exception to the 3rd condition, viz., one day when a friend of mine took three fish with a small Devon minnow much to his astonishment, as he previously had been sceptical on the subject.

In conclusion, I hope that the above remarks may elicit some further information from such experienced grayling fishermen as Mr. Eaton, Mr. Bullock, of Derby, Messrs. Foster, Bros., A.R.I.E.L.'s friend "X," or many others whom I could mention, and who have, no doubt, various reasons to adduce.

Of course I wish my readers to clearly understand that I do not for one minute recommend the minnow as a bait for grayling, but simply mention the fact that they do take it at times; and should, if possible, like to solve the question why some anglers catch them frequently when fishing in this manner for trout, and other men, possessing perhaps more skill and greater experience, have never once accomplished the feat.

* [This description of using the grasshopper is not quite correct. A small white quill float is placed two or three feet from the bait; you then let the bait sink slowly to the bottom and mark the depth of each dip by the float; if at your next dip the white float does not go so far under water, strike, for the grayling rises and meets the descending bait, and the great secret is to know, from the stoppage of the float for a second, when he has done so, then you strike gently.—ED.]

A FEW NOTES FROM WESTMORELAND.

OUR fishing season is now over here, at least so far as trout salmon, and that genus is concerned. No doubt plenty of sport could yet be had amongst the coarse fish, roach, pike, and perch in the various streams and pieces of water where they abound. But, as a rule, our Westmoreland fisherman turns up his nose at such fish. It is not very long ago that one man fishing in the Preston and Kendal Canal, close to the latter place took in about two hours some 45 lb. weight, 2 pike averaging about 2 lb. weight each. This canal would be a splendid place for fish were it not run off so often. Lately certain lengths have been drained yearly, or even oftener, to allow repairs to the banks where they

may have given way. At times a good many anglers from the Lancashire colliery districts visit the canal near Kendal. Generally they bring plenty of provender with them, a lantern, and camp out in the open all night, coming, say on the Saturday afternoon, and returning home on Monday. Tickets are now required for fishing in the canal, but the cost of them is but nominal. In the Kent we have in places plenty of roach, and sadly too many pike. Windermere swarms almost with pike and perch; but the fishermen do not care about going out for them in the autumn and milder winter months. Indeed such fish in the north here are not valued nearly so highly as they deserve to be. Most of the tarns and lakes likewise contain perch, and many of them pike. Winfell tarn, about four miles from Kendal has an abundance of jack and rudd, and roach. Skelsmergh tarn is full of roach. I once saw a small carp taken out of this latter sheet of water, the only specimen I ever saw in Westmoreland. There has been very good salmon-fishing in this district during the season, both nets and rods taking more than usual. The largest fish caught with the nets was 32 lb., the best on record for this river; with the rod one of 16 lb., altogether, I should say, the rods had about 60 salmon for their share in that river. The nets would probably take a ton of fish, morts and salmon, from the Kent itself. Then more were of course caught on the sands. The Leven and Duddon have not yielded so well as has been known in other years. A few salmon were caught in Windermere. Throughout the whole district of the Kent, Bela, Leven and Duddon Board, trout fishing was, during the past season, not quite up to the average. In the spring char were very plentiful in Windermere, and towards summer capital takes were had by fishing with the plumb line. One of the county police caught a man grappling near Brigsteer last week. The unfortunate poacher threw out a sea trout which almost hit the constable on the head. Doubtless he will be prosecuted. Nothing further has been made of the fish poisoning which occurred between Burneside and Kendal nearly two months ago. The fish disease is very bad amongst the salmon, salmon-trout, and morts in the lower portions of the Kent just now, indeed, it has been so for two months or more. The other day, though the water was swollen and discoloured, I saw about eight salmon and a large number of trout badly affected with *saprolegnia ferax* in about a mile of water. Most of the trout lay at the bottom of the river dead. It appears to me that this mysterious disease is likely to be more destructive to the fish here than it was about three years ago.—SPRINT.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE rules and regulations of this very flourishing society have just reached us, and very good they are. A very capital feature in connection with this club is the reading of papers on angling subjects by members. Mr. T. Crumplen, the energetic hon. sec., recently read a valuable paper on the "Decrease of Fish in the Thames and its Causes," which we hope to have the pleasure of publishing. On Thursday last, Captain Alfred read a paper on "Jack Fishing;" on the 24th, Mr. Wheeldon will discourse on the "Science of Angling." Mr. Jardine is down for what must prove a very interesting paper on "Up-stream Fly-fishing v. Down-stream Fly-fishing"; and Mr. Geo. Austin for one on "Izaak Walton and Sir Thomas Gresham," Dr. Brunton, Mr. S. C. Harding, and other members are also on the list. They deserve the encouragement of all anglers, and we trust other London clubs will follow suit; we notice with pleasure that the Piscatorial Society does not mean to be behind the age in this respect, and last Monday night Mr. W. B. Adlington read a paper at that society on "Jack Fishing," which was very greatly appreciated by the members. The Piscatorials should get Mr. Adlington to read a paper on fishing for trout with the "Alexandra" fly. Few anglers have had more experience or killed more fish with this deadly fly-minnow. We are sometimes asked to "keep dark" on this Alexandra business, but the sole aim and object of our paper is to throw light on all angling matters, and to give a fair field to all.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING CLUBS.

A SPECIAL, and important meeting will be held on Friday, the 18th inst, when it is requested every society enrolled, will send delegates. Chair taken at 9 p.m.

T. HOOLE, Hon. Sec.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

sufficiently rough to require considerable exertion to overcome them; and in nine cases out of ten, when I returned to my lodgings after spending the day in the open air, instead of being in a mood to concoct verse, I was in a state of incipient somnolence. And so matters went on for a while, until I found that something more than mountain air and the vicinity of poets was required to make a rhymester of me. Could I even have composed anything to equal the following, a result of Wordsworth, I should have been satisfied:

"My brother Jack was nine in May,
And I was eight on New Year's Day;
So in Kate Wilson's shop
Papa (He's my papa and Jack's)
Bought me last week a doll of wax
And brother Jack a top."

Any rhythm I ever had in me had departed, so the next best thing, and the one nearest akin to poetry, I took to—fishing. I had angled a bit on several prior occasions, and was, amongst those who knew me, considered rather an adept at throwing a fly. I had a rod with me and flies and landing-net and pannier and other paraphernalia an angler always possesses. There was plenty of fishing in Windermere and in the tarns at the top of the mountains and in other lakes, Grasmere, Rydal, &c. I followed my sport for several days with a commendable amount of success. In returning home one afternoon I met with an old man, who, after examining my trout and inquiring where I had fished, recommended me to try Low Water as being a capital place for big fish. Indeed, he said it held larger trout than any other lake or tarn in the Lake district. On making inquiry of the fellow as to the spot's whereabouts, I found it was on the other side of the lake, near Coniston, and close to the Old Man. "What old man?" said I. "Oh, t' mountain. It's a great big hill right over there," pointing in a direction rather to the south-west of where we were standing. He moreover said there was a "girt troot"* in Low Water that nobody could catch. This settled me; and after having tea, had me rowed across the lake, and walked on to Coniston the same evening, in order that I might make my ascent to Low Water, which, by the way, lies unusually high, early next morning. I stayed all night at the Black Bull, Coniston, and of course made inquiry as to my destination and its trout. The information conveyed by the man the same day appeared quite true, and I was promised a capture of such fish as had not hitherto fallen to my lot, besides a chance of hooking "the monster of the water." Natives to whom I talked gave some alarming tales of its size. One said it was as big as "that clock-case," pointing to a huge old-fashioned clock, which could not be less than six feet in height and of proportionate width. Another said it was as "lang as yon table," and the object to which he drew attention extended nearly the full length of the kitchen before the roaring fire at which we sat. The landlady put in her word, and said she had heard her husband talk of this fish often enough, and it was so big that it always broke away with any tackle by which it was hooked. Indeed, a clerk at the copper mines had once put on his rod a strong pike line, and baiting with a trout about $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. weight, had hooked the monster; which after playing some time took right across the tarn, running off all his line, and pulling the angler into the water up to his middle. The tackle still refused to break, and as the fish continued to rush the rod was reluctantly parted with, and the big trout went on his way. Two days after the rod and line were found at the further end of the tarn, and, strangely enough, the hooks were still intact, but the bait was gone. After treating the company to a gallon of ale, and making arrangements to be called and have breakfast early, I went to bed. To sleep—to dream that the big

* *Anglais*, big trout.

trout was hooked the very first throw, and that, on landing him, I found him to be nothing but a minnow—a big one, though, which weighed just $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ! Considering all things, I did not rest so very uncomfortably after all; and by four o'clock was down and making a furious attack upon some bacon collops and eggs. The inner man fortified, and a sufficiency of provisions to last during the day being obtained and handed over to the care of the village shoemaker, who was to be my guide, we set off past the Old Haw in high spirits. It would take me an hour to tell you of all the beauties we saw in our mountain walk, and the tales and legends of the neighbourhood with which my guide enlivened what could never have been a tedious journey. Every hill and hollow seemed to have some marvellous story attached to it. Fairies played in one, and the ghost of a murderer haunted the other. At length the tarn is in sight. We looked down upon it from the summit of a rock, which appeared impossible of descent. However, my guide soon found a rough road, by which we got down to the water's edge; and when there we rested and refreshed. In about half an hour I had got up my rod and commenced fishing. I tried all places, likely and unlikely, but without seeing a fish, and was about giving up in disgust when there was a great splash at my top fly. The fish, however, failed to hook himself, but did not fail to put the village shoemaker into a state of great excitement; be it said, I had risen the "girt troot." The fish I did rise was one of about three-fourths of a pound in weight. Well, I fished that tarn for five mortal hours without so much as seeing another fish, naturally I became tired and disgusted, for the day was dull and there was that beautiful ripple upon the water, so much loved by the angler. The hopes of getting the big fish led me on; but now the sun had sunken behind the hills, and it was time to be "homeward bound." I had just taken down my rod and was having a farewell look upon the waters of Low Water, when a shepherd hove in sight. The appearance of a human being in such an out-of-the-way place is quite sufficient for the shepherd to make towards him, in order to learn "how the world wags," and how affairs progress down in the valley—such was the case in this instance. Inquiring as to our success, I, in return, asked him about the "girt troot." "Aye," said he, "there *was* a 'girt troot' here, but I fund it deead close to 't bank, last back end. I gat it out wi' mi stick; it was aboon thirty pund weight, an' was covered all oor wi' girt lang yares like a Scotty bullock."* "You may depend upon it," said my friend, "I was at Coniston, and away from it as soon as possible." At the Black Bull, I was laughed at for my wild-goose chase, and, from what I afterwards heard of Low Water and its trout, came to the conclusion that the tale of the monster was one of the legends of the vale. "Change here for Kendal, Windermere, and the Lakes," cried the guard and echoed the porters; and alighting, and wishing my ancient friend a hearty good-bye, I left him to continue his journey alone.

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

NO doubt it would not do for us all to think alike; and on hardly any subject does there exist greater diversity of opinion than upon that of artificial flies. I am therefore troubling you with this letter, in order that I may say that I do not quite agree with "Blue Dun" in the views which he has expressed in a recent issue of this paper on the above subject, and also to state my reasons for doing so. I always endeavour, when commencing a day's fly-fishing, to ascertain as soon as I possibly can,

* *Anglais*. Yes, there was a large trout, but I found it dead close to the bank, last autumn. I got it out with my stick; it was more than thirty pounds weight and was covered all over with long hairs, like those on a Highland bullock

firstly, what natural flies are upon the water, and, secondly, to which of them the fish appear to be giving the preference. To save time, I may in the first instance mount a cast of flies that I think are likely to be on the water, but soon change them if I find that I have not hit upon the correct one. I am quite of the same opinion as the editor—viz., that you can hardly have too great a variety of flies in your book, especially different sizes and shades of the various duns and their respective spinners; and any angler of many years' experience will tell you that these must be true to nature, or else they will be of very little avail. It is quite true that in some cases you may get quite a different dressing of a fly from various makers; but "Blue Dun" should bear in mind that some flies, although called by the same name, vary according to locality. As, for instance, in talking about the March brown, it is always advisable to ascertain whether the fly known in Yorkshire as the "little early brown" is meant, or the larger fly known as the "dun drake," both being sometimes called the "March brown." As regards the "blue dun," however, I have never seen it vary very much in the dressing, excepting, of course, darker or lighter shades of wings and legs, in order to match the flies on the water, which vary as the weather becomes colder or warmer; but that fly dressed with "white hackles" on an entirely "brown body" would certainly be a novelty to me, and would not be calculated to enhance my good opinion of the maker thereof. It is rather a troublesome fly to make properly, especially in the ribbing of the body, so that some fly-dressers—viz., those who go in for cheapness—are apt to "scamp" this part of the business; but that trout (even during the early spring months, when they are supposed to be less critical than they are later on in the season) can fully appreciate the correct dressing of this fly, I think the following incident will amply suffice to prove:—Three years ago this coming April, I was fly-fishing on the Yore, in company with a local sportsman; the fish were rising freely at the blue dun, and by dinner-time I had basketed a dozen good trout, almost all on this fly, whilst my companion, although a first-rate fisherman, had only four. On examining his cast I found that his blue duns were not ribbed with yellow silk like mine were, but the bodies were thickly dubbed with fur from a hare's ear, through which the silk hardly showed at all. I then felt certain that this was the cause of his want of success, and on putting two flies of my pattern on his cast, he soon commenced to take fish; and when we finished at night he was not far behind me in point of numbers.

Any one who has been fortunate enough to peruse Mr. Aldam's splendid work on artificial flies cannot fail to have been struck with the remarkable story which he relates in his foot-note explanatory of the "Taily Tail." In it he states that one day, when fishing on the Derbyshire Derwent, he and a friend had remarkable success with this little fly, which is the female of the black gnat. They had previously tried the male fly and several others that were on the water, and had almost exhausted their stock of patience, as well as the contents of their fly-books, when Mr. Aldam caught a trout, which he cut open, to see what the fish really were taking. He found a mass of these flies in its stomach, and immediately put two upon his cast. The result was instantaneous, and, after basketing several fish that he had thrown over previously with no visible effect, he came out of the water and rigged up a cast of them for his friend. The result was that they both of them killed a splendid dish of fish, whilst other five members of the club only killed two or three amongst them. I could recount endless incidents to the same effect that have come under my own personal notice and that of my friends. In fact, as each season passes, I become more firmly convinced of the necessity of having a full working supply of imitations of all the principal insects that from time to time appear on the water during each

month of the season. Some anglers go to the length of dressing their own flies by the river-side, but I cannot say that I agree with that practice; for, in the first place, it involves carrying about with you a large quantity of materials, which, even on the calmest of days, are not very easy to manipulate on the banks of a stream and, in the second place, very probably by the time that you have got your imitation completed the rise is just completed also; whereas a fly is taken from your book in a moment, that is, if you keep it in proper order. I consider that on such well-fished rivers as the Wye and Derwent in Derbyshire, or the Yore and Wharfe in Yorkshire, it would be simply ridiculous to attempt to kill a good dish of fish by adhering to Mr. Pennel's theory. It might possibly answer on some preserved waters, seldom disturbed, but even then I should be sceptical on the point. Besides, I consider that it takes away half the pleasure of fly-fishing to limit yourself to three or four patterns; for, to my mind, the chief enjoyment of this kind of fishing is to match your flies with those upon the water, and then, by casting them lightly as thistle-down, deceive the fish with an imitation of the very fly that they are feeding upon. It is an endless study, and one in the pursuit of which even the most veteran angler learns something fresh almost every day. I could enlarge upon it *ad infinitum*, but have already written more than I had at first intended, and with an apology to you for occupying so much of your valuable space.

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

[We agree *entirely* with Mr. Walbran, and have, months ago, said—as he says—that Pennel's system robs fly-fishing of half its charm. Why, what would become of the ever-to-be-remembered chats with a brother angler over the fly to use, or which has been taking, if we could not pull out our fly-book with its fair array of favourite flies and compare them with our friends' ? Every fly has a history of its own, and that little bit of rusty metal, faded feather and frayed gut, instantly brings to one's mind some charming English landscape, in which it played a part. No, we advise our fly-fishing readers not to stint the variety in their fly-books; and to open the first trout, or grayling they catch, and then put on the nearest fly they have to the specimens the fish has been feeding on.—ED.]

SHETLAND AS AN ANGLING RESORT.—VI.

AS to the angler's outfit for Shetland that will, of course, depend much on individual taste. We ourselves generally take two stout, stiff rods, the one about thirteen feet in length, the other about ten, and we think anglers generally will find these quite sufficient. We once tried a seventeen feet rod, but whether it was that we cast too far out and past the ordinary lies of the fish, or that we did not cast so often, and therefore covered less water, we had far less success than when using a shorter weapon. As to hollow butts they are usually too weak to bear the rough usage they get in Shetland, as it is often necessary to fish dead in the teeth of the wind (and it knows how to blow in these northern regions). We have a lively recollection of one day in Coelister, eight years ago, when we took the leeward side of the loch, whilst a friend took the other. We had to fish with a light nine-foot rod against a fresh breeze, and after about two hours or so of fishing, first the hollow butt of the rod gave way, and then our reel, which we had tied to the lower end of the remainder, went to pieces. In this condition we persevered, and at the end of the day our basket held nine fish of twenty-four pounds weight; our companion had seven which, being larger, weighed almost exactly the same. We also lost several fish after the breakdown of our tackle. Therefore, we say, don't bring a hollow-butted rod to Shetland if you have another likely to serve the same purposes; if you do get it broken, you won't get it mended in Shetland.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1881.

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

I THINK I may safely say that there are few things on which so many different opinions have been expressed as about which, among the numberless flies used to allure the trout, are the most tempting. Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell's theory is well known to

most anglers, but I do not think it has met with much approval at their hands. If his theory were adopted, it would certainly make fly-fishing much simpler, both to veterans and amateurs; but I am afraid the poor fly-dressers would rise up *en masse* in protest against it, as their means of getting a livelihood in the world would be thereby hopelessly put an end to. He advocates, as most fishermen are aware, the use of three flies only—"green," "brown," and "yellow"—and tries to prove, in his exceedingly interesting book on angling in general, that these said three typical flies are the only ones really necessary to the wants of an angler, and that all other flies are merely different forms of them. He himself has tested their efficiency against other flies on the chief lochs and streams of England, Scotland and Ireland, and in all cases he has never failed to equal, and often to exceed, the takes made by the most experienced local fishermen. This is a strong argument in their favour; but it must be remembered that the originator of this theory is a skilful angler, and where he did not fail to secure good takes with his three flies, others less skilled would probably do so. It seems, also, too great a revolution to cut down to three typical flies the numberless mites of the insect creation, and though doubtless it would be far better that fewer flies should be used by anglers in general than now are used, it seems a pity that the number should be restricted to three only.

In common with an increasing majority nowadays, I am in favour of the use of a few flies only, though with more diversity of colour than Mr. Pennell's. I think that a great lesson may be drawn from the following fact. In the course of a day's fishing the angler generally meets with one or more "brothers of the craft," all trying to allure the "monarch of the hook" with different flies on each of their casts. We will presume they are all pretty well skilled in the art. If the trout are rising, and willing to be caught, they will bear testimony to the fact by the contents of their baskets, but if the fish are sulky or lazy, then their baskets are considerably lighter than their hearts. It is the same in angling competitions, held in Scotland usually, when two first-class anglers, each employing different flies, engage in contests, and the usual result is, at the end of the time appointed, that their takes are very little different from one another. This shows, I think, that no hard-and-fast rule can be laid down about the number of flies that ought to be used, and which have precedence over others. There is also another fact that shows, I think, the uselessness of having, like many anglers, such a multitude of flies in their fly-books, differing very little from each other in appearance, and looking no different from one another in the water, and that is, that when a fly is in the stream its appearance is quite changed to what it is when dry; its colour fades, the brightness dies out, and altogether it looks a very uninviting morsel for a fish to be tempted into swallowing. For this reason, therefore, it would seem rather foolish for an angler to have so many flies, to distinguish which from which is a work of art, not so much for himself when looking at them dry, but for the fish, who see them presenting a draggled appearance in the water.

I agree partly with Mr. Pennell when he says that three flies are all that are necessary, but I do not think that his three typical flies are the best he might have chosen. A little more diversity of colour would improve them, and he might have added those with wings instead of hackles, although he tries to prove that wings are an incumbrance to "imitations," and should therefore be avoided.

Again, there is another instance which goes far to prove that trout may be taken by any flies almost, so long as they are neatly made and well dressed. If you send for a sample of any fly, say the "blue dun," to four different tackle-makers in the metropolis or elsewhere, you have sent you four samples of flies professing to be "blue duns," but which differ from one another in many

respects, one being dressed with white hackles, another with blue ones, one having yellow silk round the body, another dressed with a brown body altogether. It is the same also with other flies; those bearing the same names are often very differently dressed.

In conclusion, let me say that I think these instances prove that there are a great many flies used by anglers which are totally unnecessary, and that if about four of the best known were substituted for the dozens which fill many anglers' fly-books, it would be a great change for the better.

BLUE DUN.

[Our experience, extending over 20 years, is that it is far better to err on the side of having too many varieties than too few. We have frequently found that after killing well with the *standards*, an unusually hot day has brought out swarms of some nondescript little insect, which the trout are feeding on voraciously, and unless amongst the stock in your book you can find something resembling it, you stand but a poor chance.—Ed.]

SHETLAND AS AN ANGLING RESORT.—IV

THERE are many other lochs connected with the Brouster: how many we really don't know, for ever as you finish fishing one water another shows itself; but so far as our experience and that of our friends goes, there is no sport with sea-trout to be had in them, though, as there is no obstacle to their passage these fish are sure to enter them, and, perhaps, a worm-fisher might find them at home. Of these lochs the only ones whose names we have been able to learn are Flatpund and Spinner; for though we got a list of names from a friend some eight years ago, we have not been able to identify them. As, however, it may give the reader a better idea of the capabilities of this region we give this list as it was given to us, marking the lochs we can identify and mean to describe with an asterisk. Walls lochs—*Voe or *Bardister, *Song, Huxter, Melby, Norby, Collister, Boust, Danish Waters, Upper Burgo and Lower Burgo, Mill of Shenestwatt, *Flatpund, *Greenland, Brabister, &c. These are not, however, all situated on the Brouster only, as several lie close to the village of Walls and others, viz., Song, Huxter, Melby, Norby and Collister lie on the extreme west of the island. Of the two specially mentioned Flatpund Loch is not situated on the Brouster proper (which, by the bye, enters Vaxterbee not, as might be expected, at its upper end, but about the middle of the western side), but on a small tributary which joins the main stream a few yards above where it enters that loch. This loch lies close to the new road lately referred to, and is well stocked with good loch trout: it may be reached either by following up Foratwatt Burn or by following the new road which leaves the main highway at the foot of Voe Loch, the former course being as short, and better walking. We are thus particular, because we mean to give directions for the more northern chains of lochs by taking Flatpund as a central or starting point.

Spinner is a large deep-looking loch, and also contains good common trout. Many of the smaller lochs have no doubt never been fished within the memory of the present generation of trout, and should therefore, if sea-trout are not to be had, which may of course happen, afford ample sport even to the tyro; indeed we found that as good a way to fill a basket as any was to simply trail our flies along the surface with the rod held over our shoulder, the fish almost invariably hooking themselves; but this, of course is scarcely worthy of the name of angling.

We may conclude this paper by mentioning that there is at Walls a chain of lochs, viz., Voe or Bardister, Greenland and Brabister, which, of course, contain trout, some of them good ones, and at times sea-trout. Of the latter we have seldom taken many,

three being the most we ever took in one day; but we are told that in July, when, of course, there are few stranger-anglers about, there is sometimes a good run of finnock (not ginnocks as it was printed in our notice of the Wiesdale district), that is to say small sea-trout of about 10 inches to 16 inches long into them. There is also a brace of lochs connected with the sea by a small burn named Foratwatt, which winds round the back of the post-office, and in these there are very good loch trout. The burn itself though a mere ditch often contains small sea-trout after very heavy rains: we have caught them in it over 2 lb., so, if the weather be such as to make one unwilling to be far from shelter, a little sport may be had, so to speak, at one's own door.

Having thus exhausted the roll of lochs near Walls, we shall, before speaking of those farther afield, give a table of distances and directions.

Wiesdale Bridge to Toomlin Burn . . .	5 miles.
" " Bixeter or Twatt Burn . . .	6 "
" " Hulma Lees Loch . . .	7½ "
Walls village to " " . . .	4½ "
" " Grassawater " . . .	4 "
" " Culyerin " . . .	5 "
" " Marly Loch (Vavels) . . .	5½ "
" " Clenswaters . . .	6 "
" " Clouster Loch . . .	7 "
" " Hyla Waters . . .	3 "
" " Murister . . .	3½ "
" " Bridge of Walls . . .	1½ "
" " Brouster Loch (upper end) . . .	2 "

These are reached by proceeding from Walls in an easterly direction along the main road; the following are to be got at by proceeding in a northerly direction up the burn of Foratwatt or the new road:—

Walls to Foratwatt Lochs about . . .	1 mile, N.
" " Flatpund " " . . .	2 " N.
Flatpund Loch to Vaxterbee Loch . . .	¾ " E.N.E.
" " " Spinner " . . .	3 " N.N.W.

Of course all these distances are only approximate, there being no milestones on the moor, nor, for the matter of that, on the roads either.

There is a professional guide at Walls, Halcro by name; and, though we have never ourselves employed him, we believe a stranger might do worse than entrust himself to his guidance at first, though attendants are usually an unmitigated nuisance to any one fond of his own way.

Before proceeding to discuss the angling capabilities of the waters more remote from Walls, it may be as well to mention what accommodation is to be had there. As this is the favourite resort for anglers on the Mainland, there is at times a "crush," and unless lodgings be secured beforehand the tourist angler may be literally left out in the cold, unless he takes the precaution of securing lodgings beforehand. If he does not do so, he runs the risk of having to "chum" with a stranger, who may, of course, prove very objectionable company. Accommodation can be had at (a) the post-office, with Mrs. Nicholson; (b) with Mrs. Watts, next door; (c) at Twatts, the grocer of the village; (d) at Mr. Smith's, Greenland; and also, we believe, at Georgeson's, the public-house. The writer has stayed at the first two, and can recommend them both. The usual charges are from four to five shillings a day, and this is about the usual price throughout Shetland. As it may interest some of our readers, we may mention that on one occasion a party, "quorum pars magna fuimus," camped out at the head of Brouster Loch, and, being much favoured with good weather at first, enjoyed it; but a sudden change of weather convinced all that during good fishing weather

Shetland is not that of experience been often used [We shall be described by from actual existence.—E

OTT

AS the game from mo constitute his speedy advantage possessing su and virulent cost, so must somewhat co which, it see extent of exp ing the fish o and lakes, la other lands in to eliminate finny protégé as may threa

Apart from every kind, the otter—an an rare, and who on the impr such animals them toward then, is our GAZETTE su nature of the enable those cope with t cessation of

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1884.

MORE AMALGAMATION OF ANGLING SOCIETIES.

ALL those who are interested in angling societies will read with pleasure the report of the meeting of the Kidderminster United Brothers' Society, which we publish this week. It clearly proves the truth of Mr. Geen's often-urged statement that the only way to save the railway privileges is to show the companies that they will be in a position to issue *one ticket to one responsible body*.

THE FISHERIES CONFERENCE AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

ON June 18 (Wednesday next) we hope to see a good muster of gentlemen interested in the important matters which are to be discussed. We published the circular calling the meeting last week—it gives full particulars of the objects. The time of day chosen is twelve o'clock (noon)—quite sufficient, in our opinion, to account for a thin meeting; but we know several well-known anglers who intend to be present.

THE AMERICAN FISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

AT the recent annual meeting of the above association the following gentlemen were elected to be corresponding members of the Association:

Prof. T. H. Huxley, H. M. Inspector of Fisheries for Great Britain; Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., Chairman National Fish Culture Association of Great Britain; Sir James Gibson Maitland, Bart., Stirling, Scotland; R. B. Marston, Esq., Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, London; Dr. Francis Day, F. L. S., late Inspector General of Fisheries for India; Thomas Brady, Esq., Dublin Castle, Inspector of Fisheries for Ireland; Archibald Young, Esq., Edinburgh, H. M. Inspector of Salmon Fisheries for Scotland.

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF CLUBS.

IN consequence of the great pressure on our space we are obliged to omit a good deal of matter this week. We have over twelve columns of correspondence alone in type now; but what we wish to point out is that it is often impossible to insert communications received after Thursday morning. We have to keep so many columns open for the River Reports on Friday.

Of clubs which meet on Monday and Tuesday we often do not get the report until Thursday evening or Friday morning. The increase in size of the paper on July 5 will enable us to give one third more matter each week, but we must have the reports early to insure their insertion.

THE BENIGHTED ANGLER.

AN angler belated on Whit-Monday night
Had of trout a full basket—no prettier sight;
The fruits of a ramble, so pleasantly spent
In Darenth's fair valley—the Eden of Kent.

With rod long and supple, and thin tapered line,
And Gossamer collar, exceedingly fine,
Despite the clear water, with small yellow dun,
The fish were inveigled to make their last run.

It was about midnight, and by the last train
He reached his own station, and turned the home lane;
Beneath the soft starlight, and Luna's bright smile,
He hailed not the cabman, but walked the last mile.

With creel o'er his shoulder, and rod under arm,
He hied down West Croydon regardless of harm;
His boots were of rubber, and noiseless the tread—
No doubt he was weary, and ready for bed.

When rounding a corner, a blue-coat he saw,
Who, with his dark lantern and armed by the law,
Was walking the pavement and flashing his light
To see if the doorlocks were fastened aright.

The rod for a rifle policeman mistook,
Called "Stop!" to our angler, "Let me have a look!
What's that in your basket?—may be dynamite!"
He turned on his bull's-eye, but found all was right.

With trout in the larder, and good loving wife,
Well may a king envy the fisherman's life;
At nightfall, returning from waterside roam,
He needs no policeman to guide him safe home.

Manor Fishery, Caistor.

THOMAS FORD.

[Mr. Ford says: "I could not resist putting your Whit-Monday adventure to verse, and herewith enclose result."—ED.]

THE DEE (ABERDEENSHIRE).—GRILSE FLIES.

FIRST ARTICLE.

WITH pleasure we always hail the advent of the grilse season. In matters piscatorial, than its commencement nothing delights us more. Salmon-fishing is good, but grilse-fishing is superior. If skilful handling and exciting uncertainty on the one hand, and celerity of movement—darting and leaping—on the other hand, can be viewed retrospectively with highest delight, then to no kind of angling than angling for grilse can we assign a higher position.

In describing patterns specially suitable for the river Dee, our object has been, and will be, to have those descriptions appearing simultaneous with the time, when for practical purposes they can be utilised by the angler on these rivers. We will likewise aim at conjoining, under the title of "grilse flies," a selection of those patterns which alike for salmon, grilse, and sea trout we have found most suitable during the summer months. Moreover, we will endeavour to render description intelligible by minute and full detail; to state separately the suitability of each pattern for salmon, grilse, and sea trout; and quote from memory's record of experience what shade of cloud, hour of day, and colour of water certain flies were found to answer best.

Though we do not wish to appear otherwise than liberal in our opinion, we may take upon us to mention that we give a decided preference to brazed double irons, and are to state along with each description the sizes of irons (Limericks) ordinarily used. Generally speaking, the flies used for summer fishing in the Dee, though bright in appearance, are not gaudy. As a rule, they possess a smart, finished look. Spare bodies, unless for heavy water fishing, are acknowledged best. Strip wings, or wings of slight build, stand high in popular estimation. It is well known to Dee anglers that grilse often take the purely sea trout patterns, salmon seldom, and likewise that grilse rise freely to the salmon patterns in a heavy or discoloured water, and sea trout rarely. The regular grilse patterns, sized to the state of the water, may be used for general angling the season throughout, from May till October, unless, indeed, the river is exceedingly heavy. In the conviction that multiplicity only tends to bewilder, and a judiciously arranged selection to insure success, our description will merely extend to the more killing of such classes as by experience we have proved to cover the various shades and fishable condition of river.

One of our best known, though best killing, grilse flies comes under notice first.

No. 1.—THE PITFOUR.

A very good killer—grilse or salmon; suits best a fairly large water of brownish shade, occasioned by the west winds causing extra outflow from the lochs, or a few days' rain on the hills and moors giving the water a peaty tinge. In appearance, especially in the water, this fly has a close resemblance to the Jock Scott. For summer fishing, under conditions such as described, it can be used with greater advantage from morning till about five or six in the evening than later on. Brazed irons—Nos. 5, 6, 7, to suit the size of the water. Description as follows:—

Tag: Silver twist, and one turn yellow floss.

Tail: Small topping, and Indian crow.
 Butt: Black herl.
 Body: Black silk floss, neatly and sparsely laid on.
 Ribbed: Silver tinsel, very narrow, 7 turns.
 Wings: Double jungle, supporting a couple of toppings, on each side.
 Sides: A sprig of Indian crow (short), from out each side of body, half-way between head and butt.
 Hackle: Spare, greenish-blue hackle, simply round shoulder, and extending in length almost to tag.
 Black head.

No. 2.—THE DEE SUN-FLY.

Principally a grilse pattern.
 When the day is scorchingly bright, and fish on the take at all, a proper-sized specimen of this pattern is almost certain to ensure a capture in any fishable size of water. Range of irons, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
 Description of fly:—
 Tag: Silver thread, and bright yellow floss.
 Tail: Small topping, and two short sprigs Indian crow.
 Butt: Black herl.
 Body: Black silk floss, thinly laid on.
 Tinsel: Silver; very narrow; 5 turns in spiral form.
 Wings: Two or three Indian crow feathers to size of iron, and a couple of toppings.
 Feelers: Blue macaw on either side of wing.
 Hackle: Spare black hackle from turn of tinsel nearest to tag; greenish-blue hackle sparsely round shoulder.
 Black head.

No. 3.—THE BLUE CHARM.

Is as good a grilse fly as can be used from Banchory to Ballater; indeed, as its name implies, it is a perfect charmer. During the day nothing proves more effective in a moderately-sized water, or a fairly heavy water not too much discoloured. When this fly takes well in the day time a small Jock Scott may be relied on in the evening. Nos. 6 and 7 are very suitable sizes. With no purely grilse fly we know of is the angler so little dependent on shade. It is made up thus:—
 Tag: Silver thread.
 Tail: Small topping.
 Butt: Black herl.
 Body: Black silk floss.
 Ribbed narrow silver tinsel, 5 turns.
 Wings: Strips of mallard; very narrow strip distinctly marked teal over centre of mallard on either side, topping over all.
 Bright blue hackle half-way down body.
 Black head.

No. 4.—THE CLARET JOCK.

Suits a dull day, a clear water, and under these conditions can also be used in the evening with success. Salmon, grilse, and sea trout alike rise to it freely. In this respect it is rather an exception. Sizes, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
 Described as follows:—
 Tag: Silver thread and orange floss.
 Tail: A small topping and Indian crow (short).
 Butt: Bronze herl.
 Body: Rich claret floss.
 Tinsel: Narrow silver tinsel, 5 turns.
 Hackle: Claret, to match body, all the way from turn of tinsel, nearest to butt.
 Wings: Bustard and Mallard mixed; topping over all.
 Shoulder: Spare jay hackle round about.
 Cheeks: Jungle on either.
 Black head.
 Nos. 1, 2, and 4 are our own patterns; 3, that of a well-known Deeside keeper.

W. M.

WILFUL DESTRUCTION OF FISH, NEAR PONTEFRAC.—At the West Riding Court, Pontefract, on Saturday, before Mr. Theo. Peel, Captain Armytage, Mr. E. E. Leatham, and Mr. R. Moxon, William Rose and Charles Bramley, two miners from Wombwell, near Barnsley, were charged with destroying four trout fish in a stream at South Elmsall, belonging to Mr. William Aldam, of Frickley Hall, on the 1st June. From the evidence of Police-constable Oxley, stationed at South Kirby, it was shown that the two defendants were seen on Sunday morning, the 1st June, at the edge of the stream poisoning the water, and on seeing the policeman they both ran away. On the officer reaching the stream four dead fish were found, and the water was discoloured for some distance with a kind of slimy white. The defendants were followed by the policeman for nearly two miles, and never lost sight of. Mr. Lodge, of Wakefield, appeared to prosecute on behalf of Mr. Aldam, and stated that fish had been destroyed extensively for two years past. The magistrates fined each the full penalty, £5, or two months, and ordered to pay value of the fish, 2s. 6d.—*Yorkshire Post.*

THE ALLEGED TROUT DISEASE IN THE SHEFFIELD WATER COMPANY'S LARGEST DAM.—Alarming reports were industriously circulated at the latter end of last week, respecting the death from disease of fungoid growth of trout in Hadfield Dam, Sheffield. The real facts of the case are these. Several dead trout were found in the Hadfield Dam, Crookes. The trout appear to have died from a disease well known to fishermen, but which is in no way connected with the water. It is a well-known fact that Hadfield Dam contains upwards of 21,000,000 gallons of water, about one-fifth part of which is changed every day, and the utmost care is taken to prevent any contamination. The disease is stated to be common to trout in rivers and streams, though the disciples of Izaak Walton have not been able to explain its origin. The number of trout discovered in the dam is about a score. It will be satisfactory to the public to learn that the company's engineer has noticed of late years a gradual improvement in the Sheffield water. Good as it always has been, the samples recently sent to him have been remarkably satisfactory, which is to be attributed, no doubt, to the care taken over the watershed in excluding all impure sources of supply.

ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

By Mr. GEO. M. KELSON.

MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS—(Continued).

No. 3.—GITANA.

THE readers of the FISHING GAZETTE are kindly given to understand that the terms which I adopt for the manufacture of salmon flies are not generally known; the correspondent is evidently one of the gentlemen who is unacquainted with this "alphabet" in fly-tying, which is, or should be, the first lesson for amateurs to learn. It would be advisable also for them to prepare for a strict examination in ornithology, and for a cross-examination with flies before them, as to where this, that, or the other feather is plucked.

Until the standard colours are established, a good deal must necessarily be left to the discretion of dressers, however intimate these terms may be; but eventually the size of the materials only will be left to their judgment.

Like the rest of the world, we are liable to forget that which we chiefly desire to recall, and we are all forced to remember sometimes that which we would wish to forget.

Suppose we were to wander into any court of justice, should we not see "association" at work with a witness before he would be able to relate with accuracy some important testimony? Now, I have often heard it remarked that if a fly-tier is thoroughly impressed, he will never forget; perhaps "impression" is the secret of memory, but we should remember that "association" is the leaning-post upon which the memory rests. For instance, if the intellect be weak or defective, two facts must naturally be associated in order that one may be the more readily remembered.

But, whether fishermen, fly-makers, or inventors, nothing should be allowed to be fixed on our mind to the exclusion of other teaching.

With regard to the precise meaning of expressions commonly used in describing flies, would it not be a work of supererogation if I were to extemporise upon every feather, and where could I stop if I were to begin? The columns of this journal are always open to correspondents, and, as hitherto, I shall be pleased to reply to the best of my ability to any questions that may be addressed to the Editor.

If cheeks of blue chatterer were ordered, I submit we should all know that the crest feathers are kept for small, and those off the rump, for large flies.

If Mallard was directed for one ingredient in the wing, we should not only know where to put the strip, but we should be sure it meant brown Mallard, because if the other feather was intended, grey mallard would be written.

Tippet would indicate strands of the golden pheasant neck feather, but if the whole feather was wanted it should be stated Tippet feather in the description.

The whole feather is tied on of the following, when written:—Indian crow, Chatterer, Jungle, Toucan, Impeyan pheasant, Kingfisher, Starling, Enamelled Thrush, Azure Pitta, and perhaps a few others, unless otherwise ordered. The latter pretty little bird from Borneo, as a youngster, is valueless; but invaluable after a certain age for fancy filigree work on the body of large flies, and it is a great favourite for hackling grilse flies.

Until informed, I question if beginners could tell us what part of the bird hackles come from. There used to be an instrument for dressing flax to make the old-fashioned lines with, called a hackle. I don't know how it would play in the water, but if we wanted to drive the fish from some small and impregnable pool, it would certainly be a splendid adjunct to the fisherman's kit.

To fulfil my promise, the wing of Bluebell (see FISHING GAZETTE, 31st ultimo) was described "Red Macaw," which means strands of the right and left side of a leading tail feather. The hackles "blue Macaw," from those found at the extremity of the rump over the tail; these vary in size, and their colour is lighter than all other macaws' feathers, except the "powdered blue" from the red species. The throat "yellow Macaw," is one of the flank feathers off the body at the side. The little breast feathers being reserved for smaller flies.

There is a deal of difference in the size of these flank feathers, and also in the quality of tone, accounted for by the age of the bird. These feathers should be soaked in water before winding them on the hook, otherwise the quill is liable to split; and all other large ones of this useful bird should be similarly treated when intended for hackles.

With regard to "silver lace," which signification is probably primitive, perhaps "silver rope" or "cord" would have been a more appropriate appellation; but to clothe these tinsels afresh in the current language of our time would be to create an inconceivable confusion. I confidently hope the following information may dispel any future difficulty in this respect:—

TWIST

Is almost universally used for tags, whether silver or gold; it is white floss silk closely covered with the finest tinsel, is round, and as thin as dressmaker's thread.

LACE

Is two pieces of twist twisted together; three pieces are used for very large flies; it can be purchased on reels in either silver or gold.

TINSEL

Is cut into narrow flat widths from a thin sheet of the material, and may be known as a parallel shaving of thin plate; silver, gold, and almost any other colours are sold. The modern tinsel, which is the

MORE PRIZES FOR THE TOURNAMENT.

MR. MARRIOTT, of the True Waltonians, kindly promises to give as prizes Macaulay's "History of England," 2 vols., and John Stuart Mill's "Principles of Political Economy."

THE DEE (ABERDEENSHIRE).—GRILSE FLIES.

SECOND ARTICLE.

WE hold that, unless for fishing in very heavy water, the irons, on which salmon and grilse are dressed, can scarcely be too slender, if sufficiently strong. In any swift-flowing river, such as the Dee, the advantage to the angler in possessing flies of this description cannot fail to be apparent. For one thing, they glide smoothly through the water, and are, therefore, more natural and tempting in appearance than flies of more expensive and cumbersome get-up. Ever since the long slender irons—specially made for Cosmo Gordon, Esq., the inventor of the "Gordon"—were brought into use, they have been steadily growing in the estimation of Dee anglers. In fact, at the present day our regular experts scarcely ever resort to the use of irons of a stronger make. In this respect, we imagine that the Dee has a monopoly, as it has not come to our knowledge that such irons—5 or 6 inches in length—are used for plain and fancy salmon flies, on any other "free-rising" river. In a swollen water, when it becomes necessary to sink the fly well, they are found less suitable than in ordinary circumstances. Still, on many of the upper reaches of the Dee they are constantly used, no matter what the condition of the river may be. So much for irons. Now for a word or two regarding hackles, &c.

The flies of a number of professional dressers are faulty, inasmuch as they are either insufficiently firm, possess too round heads, or too much hackle. Professional anglers, on the other hand, in regard to these points, run up their flies with rigid care. They do not aspire to work the silk so finely or lay on the tinsel so neatly as the tackle maker, but in general greater attention is paid by them to points of higher moment. Flies with nicely tapered heads cut the water easily, and spare, well-mixed hackles do not create a "furr." Their superiority, therefore, is obvious. While the hackles of Dee salmon flies frequently extend further than the whole length of the iron, and than it are seldom ever shorter, those used for grilse flies rarely go beyond the barb. These notes may be useful to those who intend to dress our patterns.

Description may now follow:—

No. 5.—THE MAGIC.

Regarded principally as a grilse lure, is a first-rate clear water fly, and used more generally in dull than bright weather. It is, however, a good, fair all-round killer, and is described as follows:—

Tag: Gold twist.

Tail: A small topping.

Body: Black, blue, and claret silk floss, in equal proportions—the blue of the chatterer shade.

Gold flat worm, five turns.

Hackle: Black cock; slight, and extending through the black part of the body only.

Throat: Teal, sparsely.

Wings: Mixed bustard and teal in same proportion.

Sides: Blue chatterer.

Golden pheasant topping to wing.

Black head.

Double Limericks, sizes Nos. 6 and 7.

No. 6.—BLACK TOM.

Almost exclusively for grilse, is another fly very suitable for fishing with in clear water, and particularly in sharp, clean-bottomed reaches, when the sun is high. It is equally as deadly as the Dee sun fly, and can be used with greater effect in very streamy water. On the whole, it gives a good account. Description as under:—

Tag: Silver twist and bright yellow floss.

Tail: A small topping.

Butt: Black herl.

Body: Black silk floss.

Narrow gold tinsel, four turns.

Hackle: Claret dyed, three-quarters down body, sparingly.

Throat: Pale blue cock hackle.

Wings: Two Indian crow feathers; two toppings; and a narrow strip of darkish, well-marked teal on either side.

Horns: Blue macaw.

Black head.

Double Limericks, sizes Nos. 7 and 8.

No. 7.—THE OLIVER.

An excellent salmon and grilse pattern; fishes best in a fairish-sized water on a clear day. Some hold it equal to, if not superior, to any of the Dee summer patterns, while others dispute the claim. Though vouching for its killing qualities, we refrain from comparing its merits with others. We describe it thus:—

Teal round shoulder.

Wings: Mixed; peacock, pheasant, bustard, teal, summer duck, and yellow swan; topping over all.

Head: Black herl.

Double Limericks—Sizes No. 4, 5, and 6.

The "Oliver," especially in the body, must be dressed neatly and sparsely.

No. 8.—THE JEANNIE

Is a popular salmon fly in the early summer. Hitherto, it has been used most generally about Aboyne, Ballater, and Braemar. It is nothing more nor less than an inexpensive substitute for a Jock Scott. We have not yet used it for grilse, but reckon it would take fairly well. It may be regarded as a good general fly, the size to be used being regulated by the state of the water. Our description is:—

Tag: Gold twist.

Tail: Small topping.

Body: Black and orange silk floss, two-thirds black, one-third orange, the orange nearest to tag.

Gold flat worm.

Hackle: Black only at shoulder.

Wings: Double strips of very dark mallard—i.e., four pieces, two on each side, the one above the other.

With or without a topping over wing.

Cheeks: Jungle fowl.

Black head.

Double Limericks—Sizes, No. 4, 5, and 6.

No. 5 and 6 are patterns of our own. We have failed to trace the originators of Nos. 7 and 8. In the end of the third paragraph of our first article for "condition" read *conditions*, and in the following sentence read *least known* for "best known." W. M.

IMPORTANT PROSECUTION BY RIPARIAN OWNERS FOR NIGHT-LINE FISHING AT SHREWSBURY.

At the Mayor's Court, Shrewsbury, on Saturday, June 14th, a man named Frederick Littlehales, of Shrewsbury, was charged before E. Parry and Geo. Eddowes, Esq., with unlawfully and wilfully taking otherwise than by angling, between the beginning of the last hour before sunrise and the expiration of the first hour after sunset, certain eels, value 5s., from a portion of the Severn, over which Mr. T. W. Trouncer has a private right of fishing.

Mr. Chandler appeared for the complainant and Mr. Williams for the defendant.

Mr. Chandler explained to the Bench that his client had not the slightest desire to prohibit rod and line fishing, but, in consequence of the injurious effects of night lines, it was necessary to take these proceedings.

In order to simplify matters, Mr. Williams admitted this prosecution in law, viz., that there is no public right of fishing in that part of a tidal river which in itself is not tidal.

Mr. Chandler called Francis Lloyd, water-bailiff, who stated that on Monday, June 2nd, he was on the river side, near the Pengwern Boat House, when he saw defendant Littlehales approaching in a coracle, and laying night lines. He was accompanied by two boys in another coracle, who were getting stones for sinking the lines. Defendant went past Mr. Burr's, and landed in Mr. Burton's field, opposite Mr. Trouncer's. Witness stayed out all night, and between four and five o'clock on the following morning he saw defendant taking up his night-lines opposite Mr. Trouncer's land, and there were a number of eels on the hooks. When defendant went ashore witness asked him what weight of fish he thought he had got, and he replied, "From 12 to 14 lb."

Cross-examined, defendant laid the lines at about half past two o'clock in the afternoon. The custom of fishing with night-lines had been recognised from time immemorial, but Mr. Trouncer had recently requested him to watch for river poachers. After he saw the defendant lay the lines on the 2nd inst., he went and had some beer with him at the Acorn. Defendant paid for the refreshment, but that did not bias him at all.

In addressing the Bench for the defence, Mr. Williams complained that the prosecution had not adopted some other means for asserting their rights. Night-line fishing had been recognised from time immemorial. Many persons depended upon it for a livelihood, and yet his client was brought before the Bench under the same statute as he would have been had he been a servant and stolen his master's money. Defendant was charged with stealing; he was placed in the category as any person under the Larceny Act, and therefore it was incumbent on the part of the prosecution to prove (1) That there was a taking of fish; (2) That the taking was otherwise than by angling; (3) That the taking was between the beginning of the last hour before sunrise and the expiration of the first hour after sunset; (4) That the place from which the fish were taken was within the ownership of the prosecutor; and (5) The right of private fishing in the alleged owners. It was simply a test case to try the right of individuals as against a body of the general public. In his opinion it would have been a great deal better if the matter had been taken before a Court of Civil Jurisdiction, and if the magistrates convicted he hoped the penalty would be a nominal one. As he had observed before, the

After expressing his pleasure at the reception he met with, and at the excellent meeting he had attended, Mr. Earp concluded amidst applause and thanks. In reply to a question, it was stated that the Birmingham brethren intended sending delegates to the Kidderminster Society. The amalgamation was then formally proposed and carried. The president then called attention to the treatment which their society had received at the hands of Mr. Humpherson, the water bailiff at Bewdley, which he described as having been unjust and ungenerous. The bailiff had tried to disparage their society by accusing them of throwing about their tickets and permits in a reckless manner. He also said that the bailiff had made accusations at headquarters which he could not substantiate. He could understand only one reason for this. Instead of taking their tickets by the riverside, gentlemen now applied personally or by letter to the society, because they believed that it was rendering good service to legitimate angling for the sake of assisting it in its efforts; this had annoyed Mr. Humpherson. He, lastly, urged them to preserve a straightforward course—if the bailiff wished to see what they had in their baskets, by all means let him do so. He also advised them to ask the bailiff to be reciprocal and turn up the contents of his; that would be a bit of mutual confidence, and if he had any trout, when he had no business to have them, they would report to the society. On the motion of Mr. Redding, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Earp was carried with applause.—*The Kidderminster Shuttle*.

[We regret this was crowded out last week.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. STEPHEN.—Much obliged to you for the interesting cutting.

J. MESSENGER, Gosforth.—You can get pike scales from Mr. McNee; see his advt. in our columns. The pike scale takes gold and silver paint and some dyes well.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANGLERS' CHEAP FARES.

SIR,—Without wishing to enter into any special controversy as to the bearing of your footnote to my communication in last Saturday week's *FISHING GAZETTE*, I would like to say a few words thereon. It is all very well to advise London anglers who, it would appear, retain some of their cheap travelling privileges, to hold their peace and thankfully accept the crumbs; but I opine a different tune would be played if the whole of their concessions had been, in the most autocratic way, swept clean away, as ours have. And there is no doubt that the bulk of anglers in this district will be "absolutely compelled"—as you, Sir, put it, to reduce their fishing excursions at least one half. I shall do it on principle, for, to go as often as before and paying nearly double the price, would be playing into the hands of the Railway Directors with a vengeance. Why, to get to our reservoir we have now to pay 6s. 4d. as against 3s. 6d. under the concession. Of course it does not matter much to the well-to-do angler, whom the question of ways and means does not trouble, how much he pays, but to thousands of others the increased fares are simply prohibitory. And these are to sit still with folded hands, and feel grateful at being allowed to go either at full fare or not at all. If being compelled to stay at home makes the fishing better for others who will, therefore, go oftener, they are welcome to it at the price. Besides it would be somewhat like enjoying yourself at the expense of your poorer brethren—not general or a cheerful feeling, I should hope. We have no "Thames," "Lea," "Darent," or "Welsh Harp," in this neighbourhood, all the fishable water is locked from us with the exception of a few duck ponds and ditches (these mostly on sufferance), and Liverpool anglers have to travel 30 to 50 miles away to get on anything like fair water; and this at full fares means staying at home to the majority. And this is what I repeat I shall do, although I have the chance and the leisure to go a-fishing, and for the reason that the Railway Company shall not reap any benefit—from me at least—of their retrograde and arbitrary policy, and also because I should in a manner feel as if I were committing treason by those who will be compelled to stay behind by reason of the abolition of the cheap fares.—I am, &c.,

June, 11th, 1884.

R. WOOLFALL, Hon. Sec.

[While fully sympathising with Mr. Woolfall and the Liverpool anglers generally, and regretting that they have lost all their privileges, we must repeat that they are only ruining any chance there may be of regaining them by advocating a policy of defiance. Of course this is only our opinion, and we do not intend to argue the point with Mr. Woolfall; but we may inform him and all who believe in a policy of defiance, that when prominent London anglers recently interviewed leading Railway officials, they were warned that the continued agitation of the matter in the papers was opening the eyes of other bodies of sportsmen, naturalists, club cyclists, &c., to the fact that anglers were favoured above any other class of the community, and demands for similar privileges were being made by these bodies in consequence. The cyclists alone number over two hundred thousand—they continually use the railways—are often compelled, to by the state of the roads. As the companies would be compelled to refuse any general demand for privilege tickets, and could only do so by refusing to issue any at all—the obvious inference is that the best and soundest policy for anglers to follow is to quietly and carefully keep what they have and endeavour in like manner to regain what they have lost.—Ed.]

THE "CARMICHAEL BOOT TREE," &c.

SIR,—I see in your last issue "F.R.C.S." asks about the "Carmichael" tree. I have only used them for shoes, but find them very useful. Put on a thick old woollen sock, and put them in, and blow them out, if needful, with a small bellows, as supplied by my old "provider," George Cording, and next day the boots or shoes will be quite dry and firm. I perspire freely in the foot, which induced me to try the trees. As to waders, I like George Cording's boots better than any for home work; they last far longer than any others I have seen. I pay five shillings extra for extra quality of rubber, and have never yet had cause to repent of it. For mere fishing, I think Mr. Cording makes a sort of stocking, with leather boot or brogue attached, very handy for carriage, being very light, with felt soles if desired. Anything I have ever

had from George Cording has been excellent; the only fault I have to find is a good one—they lasted one almost too long. One coat in constant use in rain, five years; one seven, still good, though used as a keeper's summer night coat. These things speak for themselves.—I am, &c., CHAS. C. CAPEL.

[The "Carmichael Boot Tree" is simply an admirable invention, and with the bellows, as Mr. Capel suggests, any pressure can be put on.—Ed.]

DYE HACKLES.—"LITTLE CUSS."—THE ENLARGEMENT.

SIR,—"Eastern," in your issue of June 7, advises "G. B." to tie his hackles in bunches previous to putting them in dye pots. Allow me to point out a better way: it is to put them in small boxes of perforated zinc; the feathers can then be examined as often as needed, and are easier washed when the requisite colour is obtained. The box requires boiling in a solution of water and Hudson's dry soap after using to take out the dye, or it dries on; and the next time you use it, the dye, if a different colour, is spoiled as well as the feathers.

As we may expect the "little cuss" to make its appearance very soon, I have been making a few specimens, and inclose you a few—three red, three orange, and three very dark olive bodied. Of course they can be made with any colour of silk, but I have been unable to obtain any white or dun hackles small enough. If you will examine the specimens inclosed, you will find they have a peculiar metallic gloss on the hackles. They are tied on the smallest hooks I could procure. Very pleased to read you are to increase the size of the *GAZETTE*.—I am, &c.,

S. HOWARTH.

184, Station Road, Burton-on-Trent.

P.S.—I keep the "Marston Rod" in stock.

[The "Midgets" are excellent, and dressed on the best small hooks we have seen for a long time. We should advise Mr. H. to send a few of these "midgets" to Mr. Francis M. Walbran, Poole, Wharfedale, Yorks., and ask him to try them. We do not know any water where the "anglers' curse" is more numerous or more exasperating than on the Wharfe.—Ed.]

DRY v. WET FLY-FISHING.—THE "WHITCHURCH DUN."

SIR,—I should be glad to know the dressing of the "Whitchurch" fly spoken of by "Silver Doctor" in his interesting letter on the "Dry or Wet Fly." In your footnote you ask when the dry fly system came into practice or was invented. For many years I fished with a professional fly tier and practical angler, who also acted as my attendant, and frequently, when we could not take a certain fish in a still part of the river (having tried every likely fly), we resorted to a dry fly, and often with success, and we did this from noticing that we often took a fish upon our first throwing our flies or a fresh fly when changing. Still, I admit, we did not think of following up the practice of throwing a dry fly only as a last resource. No doubt many anglers have had the same experience. Who first made public or advocated the dry fly system I do not know. I heard of it first in Winchester about 1877, but I do not remember who in particular spoke of it, though I feel pretty sure Mr. Marryat was one who advocated it, but how long he had been in the habit of using the dry fly I cannot say. Having generally fished in rapidly-running streams, which are not adapted to the dry fly, I did not feel the necessity, until I fished the Itchen at Winchester, where I soon found different tactics must be resorted to, and that I must first find a feeding fish and then throw a dry fly in order to have a chance of taking it. Of course these remarks do not apply when the water is disturbed by wind or rain.—I am, &c.,

W. T. H.

Bakewell, June 16.

[We remember the dry fly in use at Winchester many years before 1877. Perhaps Mr. Marryat, or Mr. Mann, or Captain Turle, or some other old Hampshire angler may remember when the system of fishing chiefly for rising fish with a dry fly and drying the fly between each cast came into fashion.—Ed.]

EYED HOOKS, GOLDEN HACKLES, &c.

SIR,—Allow me to make a correction in my letter of May 31st, which though not of any importance to the general public, I think is due to Mr. Hall.

After consultation as to preliminary patterns, it was he (not I) who undertook to write to Hutchinson and Son for sample hooks, and placed our first joint order. The hooks then made were eyed "sneck" bends; afterwards the pattern was altered to "Limerick" bend, and Mr. Hall got the hooks perfected by the addition of the sneck twist to the Limerick bend, now so well known.

I am much obliged to "Eastern" for his receipt for dying white hackles a golden yellow, which I will try if I do not find natural ones of the kind required.

The peculiar point I desire is the lustre of the golden pheasant topping in a suitable feather for hackles. I had experience in Scotland last autumn of the unusual preference of sea trout and loch trout for a fly (well known in the South as an excellent small trout fly), which I dressed as an experiment on the larger sizes of hooks for that style of sport, as, when using this on a cast with various other well-known patterns I took four out of five fish with it, all through my excursion.

I think I can still further improve the pattern if I can obtain suitable hackles; but there is a dulness of colour about all fowl hackles, which (though desirable in small trout flies) is the reverse of what I am aiming at in the larger fly, and I hope some salmon fly dresser may yet be able to tell me of a suitable feathers. Yellow macaw side or breast looks about the right shade, but I fear the feather would not be right in shape.

If I succeed, and the result is good with the fish this coming autumn, I will place the pattern at your disposal, but I have not yet seen it used as a loch or sea trout fly.—I am, &c.,

GEO. BANKART.

Leicester.

ROACH QUERY.

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me the time that elapses between the spawning of roach and the appearance of the young fry?—I am, &c.,

J. H.

[It depends on the temperature, but ranges between 4 and 10 days.—Ed.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required, from gentlemen who can fish, to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—(Advrt.)

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the principal Newsagents and Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1884.

A CONGRATULATION.

(FROM ONE OF OUR EARLIEST CONTRIBUTORS.)

THE close "set" pages of the FISHING GAZETTE of to-day afford a striking contrast to the early issues, when some of my own contributions appeared in all the honours of "double-leaded" type. The paper has undoubtedly supplied a want; the large increase in the advertisements, and the great popularity of the GAZETTE, has warranted the Editor, as one of the proprietors, in increasing its size without adding to the price. The Editor complains that he is flooded with held-over correspondence. Brevity is a blessing to any editor where the space is arbitrary. If club meetings are held on the first two or three evenings of the working week, the secretaries should write a succinct paragraph, and post the "copy" at once. In the ordinary "correspondence," each writer should strive to get at the kernel of his subject, and mentally "boil it down," and discard all the husk. Cant terms of angling should be avoided by all, and sorry attempts at wit and humour never indulged in. Most Englishmen when they meet together for pleasure indulge in "harmony"; but there is no need at all to mention the songs sung. Every reader of the FISHING GAZETTE will thus find the enlarged series increasingly interesting, and by the "boiling down" process, however much some vain folk like to "see their names in print," the "great guns" only can go into detail on smart performances, because the interest of the cause will warrant their doing so.

THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACTS,

1878 AND 1884.

MR. J. W. WILLIS BUND, M.A., has done great service to all anglers, and, indeed, to everyone interested in our inland waters, by publishing, in a very handy and cheap form, the Mundella Act of 1878 and the Birkbeck Act of 1884. We call it the Birkbeck Act because, although introduced by Mr. Hibbert, M.P., it was fostered into vigorous life and usefulness by Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P.—indeed, in its original state it was merely intended to be special and, perhaps, local in its action. Mr. Willis Bund not only gives us the Acts, but he also gives a most clear and valuable commentary on their various clauses, pointing out the effect of this or that clause in such a manner as could only be done by a lawyer, and a lawyer who had an immense experience of the working of the laws relating to fishing. Mr. Willis Bund is the first authority of the day on legal matters connected with fisheries, and we have the greatest pleasure in advising our readers to obtain this little work, which may be had, price 1s., of Messrs. Butterworth's, 7, Fleet Street, London.

The Act of 1884 (taken in connection with previous legislation) has provided for England and Wales the best system for fostering and protecting their fisheries they have ever had, and far better than anything which is done in this direction by any other country in the world.

Every angler, and especially the secretary of every angling

club, ought to understand the laws of his country relating to his favourite sport. It should be remembered that ignorance of the law is not considered a legal excuse for breaking it.

PROSECUTION BY THE SEVERN FISHERY BOARD IN HEREFORDSHIRE.

AT Ledbury, Herefordshire, at the last Petty Sessions, before Colonel Kyrle, Captain Archdale, and J. Hopton, Esq., Richard Hoare, Charles Field, John Farmer, George Thomas, Thomas James, and James James, of Bosbury, were summoned by the Severn Fishery Board, for illegally taking trout out of a brook at Bosbury. Mr. J. Stallard, jun., clerk to the Severn Fishery Board, prosecuted.

Police-constable McDonald deposed to seeing James James on the afternoon of May 24th, who spoke to him about fishing. He (witness) showed him a bill prohibiting fishing unless in conformity with the Act. At half-past six the same day, he saw the defendants near the bridge over the brook at Bosbury. They were under the bridge, lading the water. At the expiration of twenty minutes, J. James came from under the arch, with a bucket nearly filled with fish. The defendant Farmer said they had no license.

It was stated that four of the defendants were not there by pre-arrangement, but were attracted by curiosity.

The Bench said they had no alternative but to convict, and fined each defendant 8s. or seven days.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

SINGULAR INCIDENT DURING TROUT FISHING.

SIR,—The following singular incident occurred the other day while I was fishing for trout at Hambledon, near Henley-on-Thames. I was live baiting with a bleak for a large trout that I had observed on several occasions, and I was using gut snap tackle, without float or shot, simply allowing the bait to swim where it chose.

The bleak naturally came up to the surface of the water frequently, and I allowed it a swim of forty yards or thereabouts. After some little time, while turning round to light my pipe, I heard the rattle of my winch, which, to my surprise, was caused, not by a fish taking the bait, but by a "martin" which, to my astonishment, was hooked and fluttering on the water. I drew in my line and found that it was a fact that the poor little bird was hooked clean through the upper part of its beak. How this occurred I am at a loss to imagine, except that perhaps the martin made a sudden dive at an insect, and the bait rising to the surface at that exact moment, the hook got thus imbedded in the bird, but it was strange that the capture should have been effected thus—"fairly hooked." I am a constant reader of your interesting paper and thought that perhaps the above circumstance from its singularity might be worth mentioning.—I am, &c.,

H. J. D. KELLY.

ENGLISH TROUT IN AMERICA.

SIR,—You have a slight error in the American paragraph on page 289, about the ova from the Wye. They were from the upper part of the Wye, at Alton, where we have fish of 8 lb. and over.—I am, &c.,

T. ANDREWS.

Westgate House, Guildford, June 21.

FINE TACKLE FOR THE THAMES.

SIR,—On Monday last I fished at Walton-on-Thames with old George Hone, and after trying with a fine ledger line for four hours, began to think the day would be another blank.

I thought I would try the very finest roach tackle. This was soon fitted to my fine silk running line, and after two or three swims, I hooked a nice bream. This was followed by another, and another, until Mr. Jack paid a visit to my swim. I fitted up a paternoster with a nice lively dace, and soon had the pleasure of placing a jack of 3½ lb. in the well, and a short time after I caught another of 2 lb. weight; this, unfortunately, I could but return to the river. The fish was killed in getting the hook out.

The river is full of fish, but as old George says, they want "ketching." My day's sport, fourteen good bream, largest 3½ lb., two jack, 3½ and 2 lb.—I am, &c.,

ALFRED MACKILL, T.A.P.S.

"DRY FLY FISHING" UP STREAM.

SIR,—Several letters have lately appeared on this subject in the FISHING GAZETTE. So far as I have been able to ascertain from anglers accustomed to this method of fly-fishing, a comparatively recent origin for the practice is given by them all; and you, yourself, in an editorial note annexed to a letter on this subject in the last number of the GAZETTE, say "we remember the dry fly in use at Winchester many years before 1877."

It is not easy to say how long it is since dry fly-fishing was begun, for without publication it may in some districts have been long practised as the most deadly mode of taking wary trout. Certainly it is only of recent years that this practice has become so general and well known.

I am sure it will interest your readers when I mention that in one book only in my library I have found a comparatively early record of advice on this matter. W. Wilson, of Hatton Garden, printed and published in London in 1815 a book entitled, "Series of Letters on Sporting, by Robert Lascelles, Esq.: in two parts," the first is on angling, and the second on shooting. The letters on fishing were written in 1811 to his friend G—, and in one of them headed "Crick Howell (Wales)," while giving his friend an account of the flies on the water, and speaking of the March brown, or cob fly, says (p. 31): "These flies appear in large shoals, and at times the water is perfectly alive. I should

recommend every one before he attempts the artificial, to catch a natural one, as their bodies vary so much in colour, but this one in particular in which respect he is a perfect chameleon . . . a most famous killing fly throughout the season. . . . When this fly first comes on the water the fish instantly flock to the head of the stream, and scarce one out of thousands escapes their fury. It will materially assist your diversion, I think, if you use three flies of this description at the same time; one of lighter colour, another something sadder, and a third the exact colour of the natural fly, for by throwing gently up the stream and allowing yours to swim down with the other flies a fish is more likely to be off his guard, and under such circumstances every dexterity of skill is required to lure him into the snare." Very good advice! Mr. Lascelles has in this passage indicated the principle and advised the practice of dry fly-fishing which has nowadays been reduced to such perfection. I do not suppose that many, if any of us, will take his advice and use three flies; one is found to be sufficient; the two if double winged and on eyed hooks can be easily managed; but on this point I do not mean to enter, as I began this letter, now too long, merely to try if possible to fix the time when dry fly-fishing was first practised and published.

Possibly someone else may be able to fix a more ancient date; but this is certain: the "many years before 1877," Mr. Editor, will not reach back to 1811. —I am, &c.,
21, Euston Road, N.

JOHN BRUNTON, M.D.

[Dr. Brunton's interesting letter does not prove quite enough for our purpose. Lascelles simply recommends up-stream fishing with three flies, and says nothing about drying them and making them float, but only that they should swim down—which may, and most probably, does mean the ordinary three-fly up-stream cast. Mr. Francis-Francis nearly twenty years ago described "Dry-fly fishing" fully in his invaluable "Book of Angling." In connection with this matter, Mr. Marryat, probably about the best fly-fisher for trout now alive, has written us a note which will be found in our columns. —ED.]

WHO INVENTED DRY-FLY FISHING?

SIR,—I believe the late James Ogden, of Cheltenham, claimed to have been the inventor of the dry-fly system, but I expect it is a case of evolution, and that the first man who threw a dry fly is lost to fame, *caret quia vate sacro*. I see your correspondent, "Hampshire," saw me cast twenty-eight yards of line with a single-handed rod; it was not measured, and if I were you I should reel in about six yards two feet even inches and threequarters, or you will raise "Merry Nell" at the forthcoming FISHING GAZETTE Tournament on July 26, unless I come and do it, or burst a little gut trying to do it. I have just been staying at Houghton Mill. I fished one evening at Piddlesworth, and got a brace of fish and two great silly dace that hadn't as much judgment as not to rise like grayling, and so met a dry death. I don't hanker after fishing a single blank in hay fields; docks is cusses, and thistles is blasphemy, and all fishermen's recording angels have to be double-balked in hay time. Who might "Hampshire" be, if it is not a breach of etiquette to say?—I am, &c.,

GEO. I. MARRYAT.

[We must leave "Hampshire" to make himself known to Mr. Marryat, if he cares to do so. We can fully sympathise with Mr. Marryat and the exasperating state casting from a hay field induces in all but angels. Last Monday we had a fair dose of this form of hay fever. You see a fish rise just on the edge of the weeds, say within an easy cast up stream, fifteen yards perhaps. You kneel down and creep as near the water as possible to get free of overhanging green things. Two or three flutters of the fly to dry it, then a nice back cast, and with your eye intent on the feeding place, you make the forward cast. Everything goes nicely until you have got full steam up, and then—bang—your fly has got round a slender but tough bit of rye grass, or the red scale-like flowers of the dock. On such an occasion the best thing to do is to set your teeth well into the screw of your whisky flask and take a solar observation, remember the "World's" advice as to what to say, and repeat "Godfrey Daniel's blast and furnace works" until relieved. Repeat it to the farmer if he asks you why you don't walk "all over the field."—ED.]

ANGLERS' CHEAP FARES.

SIR,—The recreation or pastime of angling differs from all others, inasmuch that it is indulged in both summer and winter. Cyclists can mount their machines and ride where they please, and only take to the railways when the state of the road or weather "compels" them. Anglers cannot get astride their rods, and ride to this place and that place; they must use the iron road to arrive at their destination. Hence there is no comparison as to the needs of these two to the consideration of railway directors. Other pastimes, such as shooting, botanising, &c., are mostly followed by those whose means are ample, and whose time in a great measure is, so to say, their own. These could not possibly enter into competition with the bulk of anglers for an extension of the cheap fares to them. Of course there are plenty of anglers who do not need and do not use the cheap fares, and, indeed, in our association we have members who on principle would not use the privilege card, but who have always paid ordinary fare, arguing, and properly so, that the concession was intended for the benefit of their poorer brethren.

But, Sir, we cannot "keep" what we have not "got," and we have quietly and humbly endeavoured to regain what was taken from us. We drew up and submitted a code of regulations or guarantees to the directors as safeguards to the issue of the cheap fares, at the same time saying that if these were not approved of we placed ourselves in their hands, and would accept such conditions as they might think necessary. Several of our patrons, who are M.P.'s, also used their interest to have the privilege restored to us, but without avail. It was evident the directors of the London and North-Western, Great Western, and Lancashire and Yorkshire did not intend to listen, and had made up their minds to persist in their high-handed policy as far as Liverpool was concerned, and I should think that under the circumstances no one can possibly blame anglers here for resolving to make up their minds to stay at home, and thus deprive the railway companies of any benefit they may have hoped to derive from the increased fares. This is the policy I have adopted, and which I shall most certainly follow up, as I think it the only one to have any lasting effect. —I am, &c.,

RD. WOOLFALL,

Hon. sec. the Liverpool Angling Association.

BOLTON ANGLERS AND CHEAP TRAVELLING.

SIR,—In your issue of the 14th of June I see a letter signed, "John Walsh," in which he suggests that the anglers of Bolton should acquire waters near home, and thus get rid of the necessity of spending money in travelling

by rail. Can Mr. Walsh point out any waters worth fishing in that we have any chance of securing? I have resided in Bolton for many years, but up to this time have failed to find any decent fishing within many miles.

Of course there are the Corporation Waterworks Reservoirs, which are rented, I believe, by a club styled "The Bolton Anglers' Association," who issue tickets at 15s. for the season. The reservoirs are five in number, and from two to six miles' distance from Bolton. They all contain trout, but not very many. The fishing, therefore, is rather poor, blank days being pretty frequent. One fish is a fair afternoon's catch; two a very good one; and three, so far as my experience goes, an exceptional occurrence. I have often fished these reservoirs and seen many other people angling, but have never had, or witnessed anyone else have, a really good day's sport.

Imagine, from accounts I have read in this paper, that the fishing in these lodges is not unlike fishing for trout in the Thames, except that our fish, although of fair size, are by no means so large as those of that river. If these waters were well stocked with good fish—Loch Leven trout, for instance—I, and I daresay many others, would gladly pay double or treble the subscription now required; but at present the game is scarcely worth the candle.

Then there are the Park Lakes. The fish they contain are principally very small roach, four or five inches in length; of these there are a great quantity. The Corporation, however, is very capricious in opening them for fishing, which it does sometimes at a charge of 1s. per day, or rather half day, as the fishing is confined to Saturday afternoons.

We have also within two or three miles of Bolton Rumworth Reservoir, which contains a few coarse fish. The public are permitted to fish it on payment of 1s. per day. The fishing is very poor indeed.

There is also a canal here, but this is, so far as I can ascertain, entirely destitute of fish.

At Worsley, six or seven miles distant, is another canal. It contains a few gudgeon and small eels.

In the neighbourhood of Bolton are a few lodges attached to bleachworks, &c., but permission is difficult, and in some cases impossible to obtain, and even when it is got is worth very little.

The above constitute all the fishing places I can think of round Bolton. We have no river that is not liquid sewage. The nearest fishable river is the Ribble, miles away. In journeying to and from this river anglers' cheap tickets were a great boon.

Under the above-named circumstances, I think the best course for the anglers of Bolton to pursue is to strive for, and, if possible, obtain, the consent of the railway companies to again grant them the privilege of cheap travelling, which permitted them, at a moderate expense, to visit not only the Ribble and Wyre, but such rivers as the Dove, Dee, Trent, also Windermere Lake, Lancaster Canal, &c., &c.

With all due deference to Mr. Walsh, the waters about Bolton will never, in my opinion, afford sufficient sport for the many hundreds of anglers who reside in that town.—I am, &c.,

OSPREY.

A LARGE IRISH PIKE.

SIR,—A welcome addition has been made to the already large collection of varieties of stuffed fish at the house of Mr. Joseph Lawson, The Angler's Home, Queen's Street, Bolton, by the reception of a magnificent specimen of pike. It was caught near Athlone, Ireland, by a friend who sent it here. It has been very handsomely mounted by Mr. Cooper, Radnor Street, London, E.C. It weighed 36 lb. 10 oz., was 4 ft. long, it is now 3 ft. 10½ in., circumference 2 feet. It is thought here that it is about the third largest ever caught recently. Mr. Lawson is himself one of the most energetic anglers in the Bolton district of the amalgamated societies.—I am, &c.,

WILLIAM HADDOCK.

THE OUSE AT LITTLEPORT.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following in your valuable paper, as I find since I started reporting to it, it is a frequent occurrence for anglers to come from a distance, quite expecting that I have the right to the water over which we fish, whereas I am only a member of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, who strictly preserve the five miles of water between Ely and Littleport, known as the South Level Out, and no one is allowed to fish unless a member. They, however, bring the subscriptions within the reach of the humblest disciple of good old Isaac. The annual subscription for bottom fishing only being 2s. 6d., but for all-round fishing 5s. The latter ticket is stamped at the office of the Great Eastern Railway, and enables anglers to travel between Cambridge and Littleport at single fare; tickets may be obtained at the office of the hon. sec., 63, Sidney Street, Cambridge, of A. C. Allen, Local hon. sec., Club Inn, Ely; R. J. Leach, Littleport; or W. Howlett, Newmarket.

We have the river again swarming with fish. But up to the present have done but little good among them, as the growing weed is the great attraction. The greatest number I have heard of was taken on 16th by Mr. Hy. Lee, Cambridge, seventeen fish, in all; none large. Mr. Hailstone on two days last week, a few decent perch and a couple of small bream; Messrs. Pigott and Richmond, Ely, some good perch in the Lark. There is one comfort, however; no one, I believe, has had a blank day. I have just had a piece of good news from the keeper. Member Ward, of Littleport, took four good bream, 10½ lb., on Tuesday, and four again on Wednesday, over 11 lb., boiled wheat being the bait.—I am, &c.,

C. SOUTH.

[Quite agree with your private postscript; have had it attended to. We should strongly advise the association to issue 6d. or 1s. day tickets, as 2s. 6d. when an angler can only fish for one day is too much to charge. These day tickets would bring in a useful little sum. Although 2s. 6d. is very little for the year, it is a good deal when added to the railway fare when one can only get away for the one day.—ED.]

FISHING IN THE BLACK FOREST.

SIR,—"N. E. L.," whose query appeared in the GAZETTE of the 14th inst. would find Gunsbach a good centre. It lies at the mouth of the Murg Thal, to the east of Baden-Baden. The trout fishing is very good indeed; flies such as blue upright, black gnat, red ant, black ant, Spanish needle, Marlow buzz, and G. J. Eaton's bumbles would, in all probability, be the best killers for July and August. The best German anglers' guide is Von dem Borne's "Wegweiser für Angler" (Wiegandt, Berlin), which gives all the German trout localities.

Permission to fish can be had of Herr Gerber, who keeps the Krone Hotel.

To make up for lost time, we immediately threw out our baits, and at a crack, H—g's float was gone. A minute or two after I had the pleasure of gaffing a nice pike for him, weighing 7 lb., and this proved to be our last fish. We tried spinning and dead gorges to no purpose, and, as it was now getting dark, we gave over, very well satisfied with our day's sport.

We had our horse put to, and started for home. On our way we met with a curious adventure, the particulars of which I will impart to you in another paper before long. Ultimately we arrived home in safety, and you may be sure my wife was, on this occasion, pleased to see us, for this was one of our big days, not so much in the number of fish caught, as in their condition and size. When we weighed them we found we had six pike, weighing 47 lb., and four perch that brought down the scale at 6½ lb.

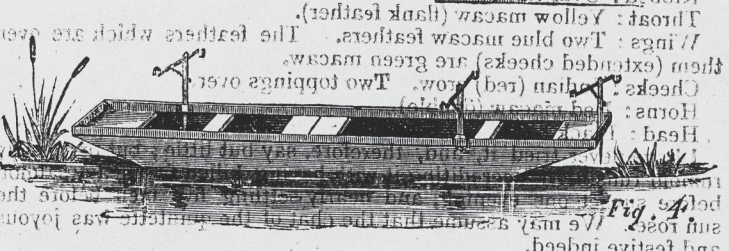
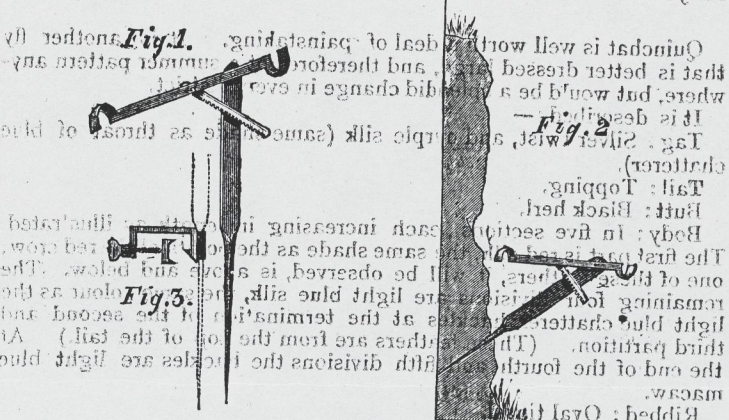
Now, Mr. Editor, you must agree with me that we had "not at all a bad day's sport."

"Pixie" will appreciate this article, especially the first part of it. So will every angler who is in the same boat—eh, Mr. Walbran? What a lucky thing it is our wives do not always read the FISHING GAZETTE.—ED.]

THE ADJUSTABLE FISHING ROD HOLDER.

In the course of the year a great many inventors call upon us to ask our opinion as to whether this or that or the other is worth patenting. In the majority of cases we are obliged to point out that the thing has been done already. We always feel an interest in these inventions, and are always glad to recognise anything likely to be of value to anglers. Some time last year the inventor of the "Adjustable Fishing Rod Holder" called on us with a model, and we at once advised him that he had hit on a really good thing, and one that would be bound to sell, and sell well. He has had it patented, and has taken considerable orders already.

MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS OF SALMON FLIES.—(No. 1)



The following are the advantages claimed for it by the inventor. In many kinds of angling, it is desirable that the rod should remain held in a certain place, at a certain angle. This invention (fig. 1) is an "Adjustable Fishing Rod Holder," which can be fixed in the bank, or upon the bough of a tree or side of a boat or punt. In calling the attention of anglers to this long-felt want, the inventor begs to point out a few of the many advantages arising from its use, which he, as a practical angler, has discovered.

- I.—The rod can be fixed so that the butt end comes to the edge of the water, thus bringing the full length of the rod into use.
- II.—The rod holder can be adjusted so as to fish when the water is bank high or some feet below.
- III.—The rod holder can be stuck into the sheer face of a high bank (fig. 2), and the point of the rod depressed as near the water as desired.
- IV.—The rod is so held that instantly a "bite" is seen one can "strike" as freely as though it had been held in the hand all the time.
- V.—The rod holder can be adjusted to any angle without taking it out of the ground.
- VI.—The rod holder is supplied with or without the boat clip, which has a setting screw (fig. 3), so that the rod holder may be fixed to the side of a boat or punt (fig. 4) or bough of a tree, and used for boat fishing, the same advantages attend the use of the rod holder as when fishing from the bank. All anglers know how awkward it is to have the rod across the boat when laid out of hand.
- VII.—When using the "rod holder," there is no danger of losing the rod, as it cannot roll or tip from the bank or bank, and fish can run off freely with it, and the pressure of wind only makes it hold tighter.
- VIII.—The rod holder holds equally well long or short, thick or thin, light or heavy rods; in fact, it is so adapted that the greater the strain the greater the security.
- IX.—The rod holder, when not in use, will close up in such a small compass that it may easily be carried in the bag, basket, dropnet, or its weight being but a few ounces.

Having given this little invention a pretty severe trial with an 18-foot cane rod in a stiff breeze, we can testify to its extreme simplicity and utility, and other advantages which are quite fairly set out in the above illustrated description. It is brought out by Messrs. C. L. Mathews and Co., 1A, Wynyard Street, St. John Street Road, London, E.C., and the price brings it within the reach of even the poorest angler. We intend to use it always in future when fishing for carp, bream, pike, perch, tench, eels, &c., in still water or when ledgering from the bank of a stream.

The pointed stem should be at least 4 inches longer, as the present hold is hardly sufficient in loose sandy soil, when a heavy rod is used. This is the only improvement we can suggest and we understand Messrs. Mathews are now making them with longer stems. They have kindly promised us several as prizes for the Tournament.

ON A YORKSHIRE CHALK STREAM.

BY FRANCIS MR. WALBRAN.

For some weeks previous to Whitsuntide I had been debating in my mind where I should go fishing during the holidays, but could arrive at no satisfactory conclusion, for I knew well from experience that at such times almost every available piece of water in Yorkshire is inundated with anglers. Great was my delight, therefore, to receive a letter from a noted Wharfedale fisherman giving me an invitation to fish with him for a couple of days upon a length of trout water, which partakes of that character so tantalisingly described in the "Anglers' Diary" as "permission impossible!" and to meet him on Monday morning arrived, bright and sunny, but with a touch of easterly wind in the air, and before 8 o'clock a.m. we were journeying towards Leeds, where we caught the express that was to bear us to our destination. The time passed pleasantly enough in angling chat (other two members of the club joining us at a station further on the line), and at 11.30 we stepped on to the platform of a rustic station with souls all eager for the fray. "What a fine morning!" exclaimed my companion to the keeper, who had by this time appeared upon the scene, "the weather is just what we need." "Aye, sir," I saw some grand uns showing up on the top dam, but I am afraid you'll find the wind awkward," he added, by way of parenthesis. The stream that we were going to fish upon is similar in character to the rivers in the southern counties, having, for the most part, a chalky bottom with here and there a stretch of golden gravel; beds of weeds extending in some places to the centre of the stream, under which the fish have splendid shelter. My companion's being members of the club, the keeper left them to select their own ground, and I walked down to the river with me, in order that he might show me a likely place to commence upon. The water was as clear as crystal, so I selected the finest drawn gut cast that I could find, and attached a yellow dun as point and an iron blue dun as dropper, deeming two flies sufficient.

One or two fine trout were sailing leisurely round a small pool below a mill sluice, and I carefully covered them. One of them veered round and made close inspection of my yellow dun, but retired without rising; so after another cast or two I sauntered on down stream, telling the keeper that I would call in at his cottage in the evening for a cup of tea, after which he promised to accompany me to one or two likely spots. The wind increased, and at length became perfectly intolerable; for if I tried to make a delicate cast over a rising fish, a sudden gust would be certain to double up my flies and cause a splash that sent him to shelter under the weeds with a derisive wave of his broad tail. In addition to that it was impossible to hook them properly, owing to the difficulty that I experienced in keeping the line taut, so that I lost fish after fish in a most exasperating manner, and although I landed several under the standard measure (which is 10 inches), it was almost four o'clock in the afternoon before I succeeded in creeling a nice, plump trout, weighing about 1 lb. I determined, therefore, to reserve myself for the evening fishing, and accordingly, wended my way to the keeper's cottage. His wife soon prepared a cup of tea for me, which, together with new laid eggs, fresh salad, and home-made bread and butter, I thoroughly enjoyed. Tea finished, I smoked a pipe or two while I conversed with C. upon angling matters generally until about seven o'clock, when we once more sallied forth to the mill pool alluded to above. As the sluices were open, a good body of water was now running through the centre of this pool. In one corner was a backwater, which ran in under the shelter of some hawthorn bushes, and, peering through them, I observed about a dozen good trout sucking in every insect that came down to them from the main stream. Lengthening out line, I cast my flies straight into the current, and, raising the point of my rod, allowed them to sweep round into the eddy. Up came a beauty at once, and the next moment my rod bent almost double as the fish rushed down into the pool below. Carefully I played him out, and C. scooped out another pounder to bear his brother in my creel company. I will not weary your readers by recounting all the details of my evening's sport, but when we left the pool, at 9.30, two brace of lovely trout graced my basket, and I had hooked and lost fully half a dozen good fish besides. Towards dusk I had put on as point one of Mr. McNee's pike-scale flies—it was out of half a dozen given to me last autumn by Mr. R. B. Marston; it is a small hare's ear dun, with plain, uncoloured scale wings and a red tail. I found it answer famously, especially with fish that were rising under the opposite bank.

"We shall have a hot day to-morrow, sir," remarked C., as I left him at the corner of the lane.

"Sorry to hear it," I replied; "I should much prefer a wet one. However, anyway, I will call at your house at nine o'clock in the morning prompt. Good night."

And away I went to my inn, where I found a substantial supper awaiting me; after which, a glass of "Scotch," a last pipe, and then to bed, hoping for better sport on the morrow. I should here mention that my companions were staying at an hotel on the lower portion of the stream.

(To be continued.)

ON THE DESCRIPTION OF SALMON FLIES.

By MR. GEO. M. KELSON.

MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS—(Continued).

No. 4. QUINCHAT.

THAT natural hackles must sooner or later come into fashion, seems to me to be a foregone conclusion; so many are the advantages we derive from them, that it is almost surprising the old standard patterns are having such a long day. Only half the amount of feather is required, and therefore bodies of flies are not so liable to be clogged with superfluous material, which always tends to skirt the water. Moreover, they never fade, and if they happen to lose a trifle of their brilliancy, it is so infinitesimal that their value practically does not suffer. They rarely change appearance in the water like the others. And we can shift them from old flies to new without sacrificing more than the four or five fibres, which would otherwise be stripped off for a hook one size less. Our tinsels and lace do not become tarnished by coming in contact with some injurious chemical from the dyer's mixture; and they are also superior, because they are more fatally attractive, which, though mentioned last, should be the primary consideration. There is no work that I am aware of which enters with any fulness in a true and practical manner into the subject-matter of these articles. Those amateurs, whose studies in the language of feathers have been fuller and riper than my own, those who admire the art of fly-dressing merely for its own sake, would surely wish to see its elements made accessible to all salmon fishermen, were it only that they may be the more thoroughly examined into, and therefore the more effectually developed. I purpose after the hackle question is ventilated, to make some allusions to the subject from the beginning to the end, perhaps from the legs to the bodies upon which these plumes are placed. I have elected to take this step since skimming that genius, "Blacker," which book has been kindly sent up by Mr. Marston, and who had been of much use to me in the compilation of the instruction. It contains for whipping up flies, to use a mild term, is rubbish. I was under the impression "Blacker on Flies" was a great work. His reputation was decidedly great, but in the three attributes of genius, feeling and perseverance reigned apparently in such profusion, that *understanding* must have been left out in the cold.

The multitude of somewhat similar books of this description which modern readers wade through may produce distraction as much as culture, the process leaving no more definite impression upon the mind than gazing through the shifting forms in a kaleidoscope does upon the eye. Reading is often but a mere passive reception of other men's thoughts, there being little or no active effort of the mind in the transaction. Then how much of our reading is but the indulgence of a sort of excitement for the moment only, without the slightest effect in improving us? It is really useless to tell the uninitiated "to get a bit of feather and tie it on a hook," you might as well give them an order from a "Brum" or a "Chat," and expect to receive the contract note. Upon this subject, I quite think the time has arrived for a new road of observation, attention, and industry. Is it not impossible for the tyro to see through a salmon fly? And many of us are even apt to fall into the extreme of condemning anything in this commodity which is modern, and estimating too highly the value of past produce.

Perhaps it is not always necessary to make flies as evenly and perfectly as the representation in our illustration; but I do wish to urge that when salmon are hard to please, when twenty rods are at work, and about a couple of the infallibles walk home with a fish, it is invariably the master hands, those who know how to make and how to use the fly, those who intuitively put just the amount of material, and no more, on the hook in the right place, as to make the lure swim so truly, so temptingly, that even the sulky salmon on the most unlikely day is moved into activity. A fly to fish well, and how to make it, would possibly interest some of my readers, and this would be an interesting subject from time to time, as I wend my way for the future.

We now and then hear of salmon being taken "on the rough," making use of a hackneyed expression, when the fly is not fished, but snatched over the catch; the line making "duck trails" on the surface while the bait below is engaged in acrobatic performances. Only last year, at Ringwood, Col. B., passing from pool to pool wetting an "Eagle" in eighteen inches of water, hooked and gaffed a 42 lb. fresh-run fish. This season, in Lady Mill's water, on the Test, after a long moner had just acknowledged two offers from Mr. B. F., one of the best anglers and fly makers living, accepted from this gentleman a giant "blue jay" (local name, something after the blue Doctor, with jay feather cheeks), and was lugged out under a scorching sun in the middle of the day. I know this pretty little bit of drawing-

room fishing well from the opposite bank; and in spring it is usually haunted by magnificent salmon; the average this year is upwards of 20 lb. for forty fish.

So it will be seen that there is another exception to the rule; but one can scarcely be too particular in the management of seal's fur feather, and hackle, either in the workshop, or afterwards when worked over a catch.

The fly that I allude to this week is a picture. The customary charm of harmony is most favourably expressed. It is rather a difficult fly to dress to swim truly, but such obstacles vanish before determined effort.

Now, Mr. Editor, you must agree with me that we had not at all

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had day's sport

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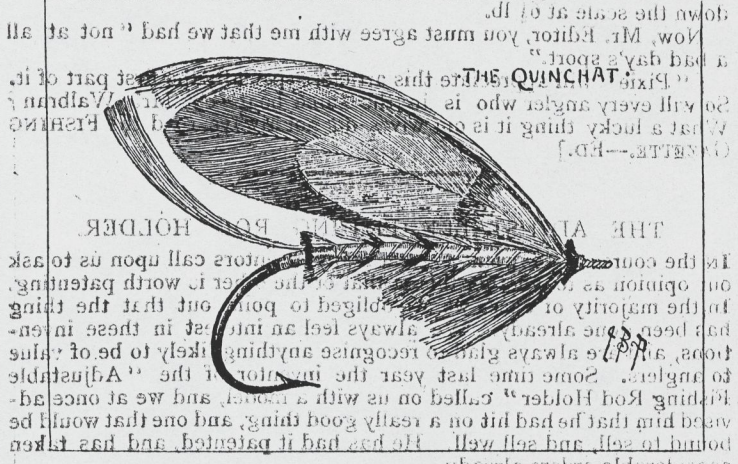
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MAJOR TRAHERNE'S PATTERNS OF SALMON FLIES.—No. 4.

Quinchat is well worth a deal of painstaking. It is another fly that is better dressed large, and therefore not a summer pattern anywhere, but would be a splendid change in every district.

It is described:—

Tag: Silver twist, and purple silk (same shade as throat of blue chatterer).

Tail: Topping.

Butt: Black herl.

Body: In five sections, each increasing in length as illus'rated. The first part is red silk, the same shade as the points of the red crow; one of these feathers, it will be observed, is above and below. The remaining four divisions are light blue silk, the same colour as the light blue chatterer hackles at the termination of the second and third partition. (These feathers are from the top of the tail.) At the end of the fourth (and fifth divisions the hackles are light blue macaw.

Ribbed: Oval tinsel.

Throat: Yellow macaw (flank feather).

Wings: Two blue macaw feathers. The feathers which are over them (extended cheeks) are green macaw.

Cheeks: Indian (red) crow. Two toppings over.

Horns: Red macaw (double).

Head: Black herl.

I have never tried it, and, therefore, say but little; but of this fly rumour runs high, accrediting it with having killed five heavy salmon before sunset one evening, and nearly settling five men before the sun rose. We may assume that the chat of the quintette was joyous and festive indeed.

Fishermen may chiefly be attracted by its brilliance, its beauty; if a fly can be too beautiful, it is a charming blemish in bright weather. However, it presents the same features of intimate knowledge, and carefulness of detail which characterised those which preceded it, and is destined to become a great favourite in the spring of the year. My description is somewhat irregular, but I have worded it so that it may read easier to young dressers.

Quinchat may be purchased at the same firms I have mentioned heretofore.

The following letter appears in the *Indian Daily News*:

"SIR, Allow me to send you herewith a few (4) of a lot of fish which were found to-day after the rain, jumping about on the grass.

They were caught by a young European assistant of the Targrah Tannery. The natives declare that no such fish are to be found hereabouts, neither in the canal nor in the tanks. They are certainly very curious creatures, and can walk with great ease. The natives are quite certain they must have come down with the rain; I can hardly believe it, as they do not much look like flying fish. Yours, &c.—D. F. May 9, 1884.

The fish sent us are four, particularly lively specimens of the *Ku'wy*. As soon as the *kanai*, which held them was uncovered, they set out in their travels all about the room, wriggling over the mat with no little speed, and apparently without inconvenience. The *Ku'wy*, *Coius cabojus*, the eighth of nine species of which the well-known *Bnekti* is one, is found everywhere in the marshes, ditches, and ponds of India. It is very common in the marshes of the Jessore district, from whence it is chiefly supplied for the Calcutta markets.