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THE ANGLER'S



HAND BOOK.



Colonel
Sir Charles J. J. Hamilton,
Baronet.

Ex
libris



Don Horler





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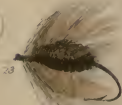
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The Angler's Hand-Book ;

CONTAINING

CONCISE INSTRUCTIONS
FOR EVERY DEPARTMENT OF THE ART, AND
TWO COLOURED PLATES OF FLIES, INCLUDING
MANY NEVER BEFORE FIGURED.

The patient angler takes his silent stand,
Intent, his angle trembling in his hand,
With looks unmov'd, he hopes the scaly breed,
And eyes the dancing cork and bending reed.

POPE.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:
ROBERT TYAS, 50, CHEAPSIDE.
J. MENZIES, EDINBURGH.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE praises of Angling have so often been sung, and so well, that we do not feel ourselves called to add one more verse to those which already exist. As a recreation for those who are condemned to toil, and who seek in some such pursuit a renewal of existence, or as a resource for those who, lacking an occupation, make pleasure their business, nothing can be compared to it. It is enjoyed equally by the chubby child, with his worm and pin and rod of hazel, and by the prince in a punt, with all the costly and elegant appointments that art can supply.

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The "contemplative man" finds in it his "recreation;" and the philosopher disdains not

"To lure with gaudy bait the glittering brood."

Our aim is to initiate, into the mysteries of this delightful art, the youth whose heart beats high with emulous anticipation at the recital of some angling exploit, to lay bare the secrets, and to give him some necessary advice and instruction before he commences operations.

With these few observations we will proceed to business; our parting aspiration shall be in our favourite lines from our favourite author,—

"Let those now fish who never fished before,
And those who always fished now fish the more."

The Angler's Hand-Book.

RODS.

THE rod is the first implement of fishing that the young angler must look for. These may be found in great abundance at the tackle shops, and it behoves him to make his selection with care and judgment. The great point is to have a rod free from any imperfection, and tapering gradually from the butt end to the top. They may be had of various kinds of wood, but, for general use, those made of bamboo cane, with tops of various lengths, are the best. It is, however, advisable to have one for each kind of fishing, that you may have them in perfect order. Twelve feet will be

found as convenient a length as any, from that to fourteen, and sometimes fifteen in broad rivers. Salmon fishing sometimes requires a rod about eighteen feet, to enable you to reach your intended victim.

Living in the country, near our sport, we have been in the habit of fishing with a rod formed of two pieces, the bottom of ash, and the top of lancewood; these have a more equal and regular spring, and throw the fly more lightly, but they are inconvenient for travellers. Should any accident befall your rod whilst you are fishing, if you have not a spare top with you, your only remedy is to splice the rod; the broken pieces must be cut in a sloping direction, so as to fit each other exactly, then stuck together by a thin coat of shoemaker's wax and tightly wrapped round with waxed silk. Your rods should be ringed to guide the line of the reel; in screwing on the pieces, take care that the rings run regularly.

on the underside of the rod, so that the line may not be twisted.

Rods should be kept in a place where the temperature is moderate, neither too wet nor too dry; when put away, oil rubbed over them helps to preserve them. They should be varnished once in two or three years, according to their service; for this purpose copal varnish, or Indian rubber dissolved over a slow fire in linseed oil, should be used.

LINES.

These may be bought cheaper than you can make them. Choose those that are round and even. Horse hair is the best material; those of hair and silk retain the water; brown, grey, and white, are the best colours.

In fly fishing, the bottom or casting line, which is fixed to the line upon the reel, should be nearly the length of the rod; it

should be made of gut, fine at the bottom or "dropper," and strong at the top; the gut should be picked and tried before you make flies upon it, choosing that which is round and of uniform thickness. The length of line required to throw varies of course with the river, and the spot you wish to throw to, but about twice the length of the rod will generally be found sufficient.

FLOATS

Are kept ready made, of all sizes. For small fish and slow waters quill floats are the best; for strong streams, cork ones will be required. If you wish to make your own, take a sound cork and bore it through the middle with a red-hot iron, put in a quill to fit it, then cut it in the shape of a pear, and grind it smooth with pumice stone, and paint or colour it in whatever way you please.

In bottom fishing the float should swim upright in the water, in order that you may see the first bite; a few shot fastened on the line will keep it in this position.

REELS.

We should advise this addition to your rod in all cases; it enables you to play your victim with much more ease and certainty, and to reach places that without its assistance you could not attempt. They may be had of various constructions at the tackle shops.

HOOKS.

There are four kinds of hooks, the Sneckbend, the Limerick, the Kendal, and the Kirby. Of these, almost all experienced anglers have a prejudice in favour of one or the other, to the exclusion of the rest. We have been in the habit of using the Kirby make in preference to the others;

we consider the shape to be the best for hooking and holding the fish.

The hooks are numbered from 1 to 13, according to the size. No. 1 is the largest.

The numbers refer to the hooks that are found most suitable for the following fish :

Barbel . . .	1	Miller's Thumb	13
Bleak . . .	13	Minnows . . .	13
Bream . . .	9	Perch	4
Carp . . .	3	Roach	10
Chub . . .	2	Rud	9
Dace . . .	9	Ruffe	9
Eels . . .	4	Salmon	1
Flounders . . .	6	Salmon Fry . . .	13
Grayling . . .	10	Tench	3
Gudgeon . . .	12	Trout	3
Loaches . . .	13		

In tying on hooks you must be prepared with strong but fine silk, and it is as well to have it near the colour of your bait ; wax the silk well with shoemaker's wax,

and then wrap it three or four times round the body of the hook, lay the gut, or hair, on the inside of the hook, and then wrap the silk tightly round it about three parts down the hook.

BAITS.

Worms are the most natural baits, and almost any fish will take them. During spring and autumn they may be used at any time of the day; in the summer, only early in the morning or late in the evening. If the river is at all muddy it is the best bait that can be used.

The line should be leaded so as to sink the worm nearly to the bottom, or the stream will carry it away. Keep as far from the edge as you can, and if you feel a bite, do not strike immediately, but slacken the line a little, and when you feel two or three more sharp tugs, strike smartly.

LOB WORMS

Are found in gardens or churchyards late in the evening ; the best have a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad tail. This is a good worm for salmon, chub, trout, barbel, eels, and large perch.

In baiting with the worm, enter the hook close to the top of the worm's head, and carry it carefully down, working the worm up the hook with one hand, and the hook down the worm with the other. Do not leave more than a quarter of an inch of the tail hanging over the hook, or the fish will only nibble at the worm without allowing you to strike them with the hook.

BRANDLING, OR GILT TAIL.

This is found in old dunghills, rotten earth, or cow's dung ; the best are in tanner's bark that has had time to rot. This is a good bait for almost any fish.

MARSH OR MEADOW WORM.

This is found in marshy grounds, or on the banks of rivers; it requires more scouring than the brandling, or gilt tail. This is a good worm for trout, perch, gudgeon, grayling, and bream.

TAG-TAIL.

This is found in marled lands or meadows, after a shower, or early in the morning in March or April. It is a good bait for trout when the water is muddy.

To scour and preserve worms you should provide yourself with a quantity of fresh moss. Wash out all the earth, and squeeze it, but not too dry; then put it into a jar and squeeze it tightly down; throw in the worms upon it. The jar should be kept in a cold place in summer, and the moss changed once in three or four days.

ASH GRUB.

Found in the bark of trees that have been felled some time; it is a good bait for grayling, dace, roach, or chub.

COW-DUNG BAIT.

This is found under cow-dung from May to Michaelmas: it is something like a gentle, but rather larger. It is a good bait for trout, carp, tench, chub, and roach.

CATERPILLARS.—CABBAGE WORMS.—

OAK WORMS.—CRAB-TREE WORMS.

The name directs you where to find these. They are all good baits for chub, dace, roach, or trout.

GENTLES, OR MAGGOTS.

These are bred by hanging up liver or any other animal substance till it putrifies; put them into a small barrel, and when they have attained their proper size, throw

in a mixture of sand and bran to scour them; they will be ready for use in two days. The sand should be damp. This is an excellent bait for all kinds of fish.

When you bait the hook with a gentle, insert the hook at either end, and bring it out at the other, then draw it back so that the point be covered.

COD BAIT, OR CAD.

There are three sorts of this; it is found at the sides of stony brooks, in pits, ponds, or ditches. It is an excellent bait for trout, grayling, roach, dace, or chub.

FLAG WORMS, OR DOCK WORMS.

These are found among flags in old pits, or ponds. They are good baits for grayling, tench, bream, carp, roach, and dace.

GRASSHOPPERS.

These are found in short sun-burnt grass, in June, July, or August. They are fished

with in the same way as cod bait, by moving continually up and down about a foot from the bottom.

WASP GRUB.

These are to be got from the nest; when hardened in a warm oven they are a good bait for most fish that will take gentles.

BEETLES

Are a good bait for chub; they are found in cow-dung.

PASTE BAITS.

Paste baits are often found very killing, especially in quiet places, with a small hook and a quill float. In making them it is found a great improvement to mix a little cotton wool with them; they are firmer, and hang better on the hook; especial care must be taken to have clean hands when you make them. Many of the older writers

on fishing recommend various oils and scents wherewith to entice the fish, but we are inclined to think that these are old men's tales, for in our experience we never derived any benefit from them.

SALMON SPAWN.

This is a very good bait for trout, chub, and others. If properly made, and kept covered so as to exclude the air, it will keep for a year or two.

Take a pound of salmon spawn about September or October; boil it about a quarter of an hour; wash away all the blood, and pick out all the pieces of skin; put to it about two ounces of salt, and a quarter of an ounce of saltpetre, and mix them all up together in a mortar; put it in small jars, and pour over it mutton suet melted, and cover the jar with a bladder; it will be ready for use at any time. It may be bought ready prepared.

WHITE BREAD PASTE.

Take the crumb of white bread, dipped in honey, work it with the fingers in the palm of the hand until it is of the proper consistency. This is a good bait for carp, tench, chub, or roach. It may be used without honey.

CHEESE PASTE.

Take a piece of rotten Cheshire cheese, and the crumb of white bread, and mix them up to the proper consistency; this makes a very good bait, especially for chub.

PASTE FOR BARBEL.

Dip the crumb of new white bread into the liquor in which chandlers' greaves have been boiled, and knead it up till stiff; a little of the greaves may be added.

WHEAT PASTE.

Take new wheat; remove the husks, and bruise it; add a little milk or water to it,

and parboil it; when cold it will be stiff like jelly; in using it, put one grain on the hook. Malt, prepared in the same way, makes a good ground bait.

GROUND BAIT.

Ground baiting should by no means be omitted, and it is better if done the night before; care should be taken that it is fresh on the day, or the fish will not take it. For carp, chub, roach, and dace, use white bread soaked in water, and mixed up with bran and pollard, in equal quantities, until it is nearly as stiff as clay.

For roach, dace, and bleak, mix clay and bran together in balls the size of a pigeon's egg.

For barbel, chandlers' greaves, boiled and worked up into balls with clay, is a good ground bait.

For carp, tench, perch, bream, and eels, malt soaked in water is good; or gentles

may be thrown in, in still places; but if you are angling in a stream, you must be careful to avoid this, as they will be carried by the current, and will allure the fish from where you are angling; worms cut in pieces may also be used in the same way as gentles; if mixed with bran and clay in balls it will be better.

FLY-FISHING.

Fishing with the artificial fly deserves to be considered a much more pleasing sport than any kind of bottom fishing, and as it requires much more neatness and skill in all its parts, to excell in it must assuredly be more gratifying.

It requires less preparation, and presents infinitely more variety. The bottom fisher must make ready his worms and his baits, and visit his "ground" the night before to prepare his intended victims for his reception. But the fly-fisher, rod in hand, and his book of flies in his pocket, free from all encumbrance, roams for miles along the banks of the stream, surveying nature in all her beauties, "listening to the melody of waters," and enjoying the while a health-giving and gentle exercise.

Fly-fishing, to be successful, requires great neatness; the learner should if pos-

sible go out with some experienced angler, and watch his movements narrowly, and imitate them as well as he can. We have before described the rod and line; we will now endeavour to give a few precepts to be observed by all who attempt this branch of the art, without having a living example before their eyes.

The tyro, having provided himself with a rod proportioned to his strength and the breadth of the stream, must dismiss the idea of a *whip* from his mind, and endeavour to use it as a rod—let him begin with the line only, not putting on any flies, trying a short length first, and lengthening it gradually; the rod should be carried gently back without effort, and thrown forward again when the line has reached its full extent behind him; great care must be taken in this part of the “manœuvre,” or the fly will be whipped off when he comes to use one. After attaining tolerable profi-

ciency in this, the learner may then put on one fly, and fish for a while with that, adopting two or three when he is able to make proper use of them; fishing in rapids until he has become expert. In order to learn how to drop your fly at any particular spot, it will be well to fix upon some object floating in the water, and take that as a mark to aim at. You must endeavour to throw your line so that the bottom fly shall reach the water first, it must be done as lightly as possible, so that it may resemble a natural fly settling upon the water; you must suffer the line to float gently down the stream, at the same time dragging it along towards you to your left hand.

The best times for angling with the fly is when there is a gentle breeze upon the water; south and west winds are to be preferred, when the water has been disturbed by heavy rains and is just resuming its natural colour, or when the day is dull

and cloudy after a moonlight night. The best time of day is morning and evening. You must be careful not to go near the bank, for fish are very quick of sight, especially if the surface is unruffled. If the wind is high, fish with it at your back if possible, and if the sun is up, fish with your face to it, otherwise the shadow of yourself and rod will be thrown upon the water. In cold weather the fish get into deep water, you should then let the fly sink a little. If you see a rise, throw your fly about half a yard above, and let it fall down with the stream, and watch it narrowly, and strike the moment the fish rises. This is done by a slight motion of the hand. If you are fishing up stream, the rising of the fish against your flies, as they swim down, will often be found sufficient to hook him. When you have hooked one, play him carefully, keeping up his head and running him down stream, at the same time drawing

him towards you. When the water is smooth a smaller fly is required.

FLIES.

Artificial flies may be had in every variety at the tackle shops, and they are made so naturally, that we should advise those who have not the opportunity of taking a lesson from an experienced hand, to trust to them rather than to any clumsy attempts of their own. For those who wish to make their own flies we give the following instructions, and should recommend that they pull to pieces carefully a well-made fly, and imitate it as nearly as possible.

It will be requisite to have every thing in readiness before commencing; a hook of the proper size, a feather of the right colour, stripped down on each side, leaving just as much as will do for the wings at the fine end, a piece of fine gut free from

imperfection, and properly tested as to its strength, dubbing or hackle, and a piece of fine silk well waxed with shoemaker's wax. Hold the hook in the left hand, wrap the silk round the bare hook two or three times, and put the finest end of the gut on the under side of the hook. If for a hackle fly, begin at the bend and work up to the head; after turning three or four times round the hook and gut, fasten in the hackle, and continue the winding of silk until it reaches the end of the hook, then turn it back two or three times to form the head; the dubbing must now be twisted round the silk, and wrapped upon the hook for nearly half the proposed length of the body; fasten it there by a single loop, that both hands may be at liberty to manage the hackle. When sufficient of the feather is wound upon the hook, the remainder should be held under the thumb of the left hand, and the

entangled fibres picked out with a needle. The silk and dubbing must now be twisted over the end of the hackle until the body of the fly is of the length required, and then fastened. If gold or silver twist is used, the twist should be fastened to the lower end of the body before the dubbing is applied to the silk. To make a winged fly, the same method must be observed in tying on the hook; then take the feather which is to form the wings, and place it even on the upper side of the shank, with the roots pointing towards the bend of the hook; fasten the feather by winding the silk over it, and cut the root ends close with a pair of scissors, and divide the wings as equally as possible with a needle, passing the silk two or three times between them to make them stand in a proper position; carry the silk down the shank of the hook the proposed length of the body, and fasten it; then apply the dubbing to the

silk, and twist it towards the wings; fasten in the hackle for legs, and wind it neatly under the wings so as to hide the ends of the cut fibres; the silk must be fastened above the wings. In making flies, our own experience would lead us to think that it is not necessary to copy nature narrowly, or to adopt the fly which at the time happens to be on the water. Fancy flies, as the fly-makers term them, often take fish where others fail. The fly at the end of the line is called a stretcher, and the next droppers; the first dropper should be about a yard from the stretcher, and the second about three quarters of a yard from the first, made on pieces of gut about four inches long, to detach at pleasure.

MATERIALS

REQUIRED FOR MAKING ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

Feathers of the grouse, snipe, bittern, woodcock, partridge, landrail, golden plover, starling, and jay; hackles from cocks and peacocks; furs of all colours, from the skins of squirrels, moles, and water rats; camel's hair, hare's ear and fur from its neck, and the yellow fur from the neck of the martin; mohairs of different shades, and camlets, black horse hair, hog's down died various colours, gold and silver twist, and sewing silk of various colours and thicknesses;— a pair of fine pointed scissors and small pliers are indispensable.

DESCRIPTION OF FISHES, &c.

SALMON.

This prince of the river fish is taken in the greatest quantities in the north of England, Scotland, and Ireland, but it is found in most rivers running into the sea. They make their way up the rivers for miles to deposit their spawn, about September or October, and then return to the sea to recover their strength. They may be taken with small fish and large lobworms, but the best bait is the artificial fly. Few salmon fishers agree as to the fly they use, nor is it necessary to follow any particular model, provided they be large and gaudy. The two following flies will be found killing:—

The *Dragon fly*, the wings of a reddish brown feather from the wing of a cock tur-

key, the body of auburn coloured mohair, wrapped with yellow silk, and a ginger cock's hackle wrapped under the wings. The hook, No. 2 or 3.

The *Kingfisher*, the wings of a feather from the neck or tail of a peacock, the body of deep green mohair, wrapped with light green silk, and a jay's feather striped blue and white wrapped under the wings. The hook, No. 2 or 3.

Salmon generally swim up the stream, and love the heat of the sun.

The length of the rod should be proportioned to the breadth of the river, and not less than fifteen feet; a large reel is also required that will hold a line about eighty yards in length.

TROUT.

The trout may truly be said to surpass every other fish in beauty and delicacy of flavour. He affords excellent sport to the

angler. They begin to feed in March, and are in season till October or November; they may be taken with various baits—minnows, artificial and natural flies, worms, cads, paste, cow-dung, lob, white grub, salmon spawn, &c. The largest trout are taken with the minnow, and it is a very killing bait in skilful hands. You must use strong tackle, and cast the bait lightly into the water, and draw it against the stream near the surface. The minnow must be hooked by the lips, or under the back fin, with a No. 6 hook. The trout generally feeds in the deepest parts of streams, near the side, and very commonly lies under hollow banks, among the roots of trees, behind great stones that cause an eddy in the water, at the junction of streams, the tails of currents, and below bridges and weirs. In summer the large trout love to lie in deep pools and eddies near mill tails; also under large stones,

alder trees; and seldom change their places.

GRAYLING OR UMBER.

This may be considered next to the trout in regard to the sport which he affords the angler. It is very similar to it in shape, but rather longer and more slender; the sides are a beautiful silvery grey, with numerous longitudinal stripes. It swims very swiftly, disappearing almost like a shadow, whence its old name of umber, from the Latin. It may be taken with the same baits and at the same stand as the trout. The principal months to angle for grayling are September, October, and November. The smaller ones will then be found in the streams with sandy or stony bottoms, and may readily be taken with the fly. When you have hooked one, play it with caution, for they are very tender in the mouth. In fishing with the worm or maggot, strike the moment the

float descends ; — they swim down stream. In fishing with the fly, they require a smaller fly than the trout, finer gut, and a quicker hand and eye.

THE PIKE.

This most voracious of river fish is found in most of the ponds, lakes, and rivers of England, and grows to a considerable size. It spawns in March or April, and is in its prime in September and October, but is considered good from Midsummer to Christmas. He is partial to the deeps of rivers that have sand or gravel at the bottom. There are two ways of taking him, trolling and snapping.

The baits for trolling are small trout, gudgeons, roach, dace, and young frogs ; the proper size is from one to four ounces.

The rod should be long and stout, and the line thirty yards in length, wound upon a reel ; the bottom should be of fine gimp or

twisted gut, with a box swivel attached, so that the bait will turn freely ; large double hooks loaded with lead are used, to which the bait is to be attached. For baiting, an instrument is used, called the baiting needle ; the curved end of this must be hooked to the gimp to which the hook is attached ; run it through the mouth of the bait and bring it out at the tail, drawing the gimp quite through, so that the lead will be inside the belly, and the shanks of the hook inside the mouth. To keep the bait steady on the hooks tie the tail part of it to the gimp with white thread.

And now, having every thing prepared, grasp the rod in your right hand just above the winch, and rest the butt end of it against the lower side of your stomach. With your left hand draw a yard of the trolling line from the winch and hold it tightly, until, with a jerk from the right arm, you cast the baited hook in the water.

When the jerk is given let the line which you hold in the left hand pass from its hold gradually, that the baited hook may not be checked when cast out, by holding the line too fast, or that it may not fall short of the place you wish to reach.

Let the bait sink so that it nearly touch the bottom, and then draw it up again gradually almost to the surface of the water; repeat this two or three times, varying the place a little. When the bait is taken, draw out your line and allow the pike to run off with it to his home. Give him about five minutes to gorge the bait, and then draw the line until you see him. Do not be too anxious to get him on shore, but play him cautiously, and keep him from the stumps and the weeds. The baits keep best in a tin box, with bran to absorb the moisture.

For fishing spring snap, with a live bait, the rod and line must be strong. Tie to a

piece of gimp two large worm hooks back to back, and on the shank, near the top, whip a small hook to hang the bait on; hook the bait under the back fin, and fasten it with thread. If you use a frog, choose the yellowest you can find; put the small hook into its mouth, bring it through his gills, and tie it to the frog's leg just above the upper joint. A cork float must be used, and the line leaded so that the float will stand upright. Strike directly you feel a bite.

THE PERCH.

The perch is an inhabitant of clear rivers and lakes, and is to be found in all parts of England. It spawns in February or March, and may be taken from April to September, but the best months are April, May, and June, from daylight till eleven o'clock, and from three till dark.

He frequents deep holes in rivers that flow with a gentle current, also swift rivers

with a gravelly bottom. He is voracious, and will take worms or the minnow. The best baits are, the minnow, red worms, maggots, wasp grubs, cabbage grubs, and grasshoppers. To ensure success, it will be necessary to throw into certain places, before commencing, stewed malt, grains, or lob worms cut in pieces. Use a float, and let the bait hang about twelve or eighteen inches from the bottom. Two or three hooks may be used at the same time, fixed to the same bottom. When angling with the minnow use a single hook, No. 4 or 5, and pass it under the back fin.

RUFFE.

The ruffe, or ruffe perch, frequents clear rivers, and is fond of deep places with gravelly bottoms. Their spawning time is April. They may be angled for all day long in summer when the sky is cloudy, and the weather warm; small red worms,

or brandlings, are the best baits. Use a quill float, and a hook No. 7, and let the bait touch the ground; do not give them much line, but strike immediately. Throw in ground bait of clay and worms; or worms alone will do if the water is muddy.

THE CARP.

The carp chiefly inhabits lakes and ponds, and frequents the deepest and most quiet places, especially if the bottom be of sand, clay, or weeds. It spawns in May, June, or July, and is best in season in March or April. They may be angled for at any time of the day from February to June if the weather is mild, especially after a slight shower of rain.

The best baits are well scoured red worms and brandlings, maggots, wasp grubs, and cabbage worms; they will also take the white part of chandlers' greaves softened in warm water, or paste made of

the crumb of white bread and honey, mixed with cotton wool to make it stick upon the hook. Ground bait made of fresh grains and lobworms cut in pieces, with a little bran and greaves mixed together, should be thrown in the night before, or a few slices of bread and honey.

Use a long light rod with a reel, and a reel line of the finest description. The hook should be, for worms, No. 5 or 6; for wasp grubs, 7; and for maggots, 8 or 9.

Strike immediately you have a bite, and if you have a large fish give it line cautiously.

TENCH.

The tench inhabits large stagnant waters with a muddy bottom. Its haunts are similar to those of the carp, and it may be taken with the same baits. It spawns in May and June, and is in season from the end of September to April; the best time to angle for it is in March or April, in warm cloudy weather.

BREAM.

The bream chiefly inhabits large lakes and still rivers. It spawns in June and July, and is best in season in May. The best time to angle for it is in the month of May, and from the end of July to the end of September, from sun-rise till eight o'clock in the morning, and from five till dusk in the evening. The baits are red worms, well scoured, brandlings, maggots, wasp grubs, and flag worms; red worms are the best. Use the same tackle as for carp, and let the bait lie on or near the bottom; for ground bait throw in lobworms cut in pieces, and fresh grains, before you begin. Keep from the edge of the water, and strike as soon as the float disappears.

BARBEL.

The barbel is usually found in deep and rapid streams; it spawns in April and May; the best months to fish for it are

July, August, and September, early in the morning and late in the evening. The best baits are salmon or trout spawn, well scoured lobworms, red worms, maggots, and chandlers' greaves; it will also take a paste of sheep's suet and cheese mixed with honey. Before commencing, bait the place with spawn, or worms cut in pieces.

The line and rod must be long, and the bottom tackle as fine as that for carp; have a hook No. 7 or 8; use a quill float, and lead the line about nine inches from the bottom strike the moment you perceive a bite, and keep the fish from getting into the weeds.

GUDGEON.

The gudgeon is found in small gentle rivers with gravelly or sandy bottoms; it spawns two or three times during the year, and is in season from March to October; after that time it retires into the deep waters. It will bite at any time of the day, especially in gloomy weather. The best

bait is a small red worm, or they will take gentles or the cow-dung worm. Use a fine line, with a hook No. 8 or 9, and a float. It is usual to take a rake with you to stir up the sand and gravel from the bottom, which causes them to bite much better.

ROACH.

The roach is found in most rivers in England, especially such as are deep, still, and clear. It spawns in May; the principal season for it is Michaelmas, but it is good all the winter.

In summer it bites best from sun-rise till nine o'clock in the morning, and from four till dark. In winter during the middle of the day.

Paste made of the crumb of white bread slightly soaked in water, with a little vermilion added to make it a salmon colour, is the most killing bait; but it will take small red worms, brandlings, maggots, and wasp grubs. When angling with paste, pu^t

a piece on the hook the size of a pea, and let it float near the bottom; with worms or maggots, let the bait lie two or three inches on the bottom. For ground bait throw in chewed bread.

The rod should be long and light, and the line fine, with a bottom of very fine gut, and hook No. 9 or 10. Use a small quill float.

DACE.

The dace is found in most rivers, principally in still waters that have a gravelly or sandy bottom. It spawns in March or April.

The baits are small red worms, maggots, wasp grubs, greaves, and paste made of cheese and honey; it will take maggots freely after the river has been disturbed by rain. The line must be fine, and the bottom of gut, or single hair. For maggots use a hook No. 9; for other baits use a larger.

CHUB.

The chub is generally found in the deepest parts of rapid rivers. It spawns in April and May, and is best from August to March. The baits are worms, maggots, wasp grubs, snails, or the brains of a bullock, calf, or sheep; let the bait be upon the ground, except with brains, which must be a little below mid-water.

THE FLOUNDER.

This is properly a sea fish, but is frequently found in rivers, at a considerable distance from the sea; it frequents gentle streams with gravelly sandy bottoms. It spawns early in June, and should not then be eaten. It may be taken at any time from March to August.

The best baits are small red worms, brandlings, or marsh-worms. Use a fine line, with a hook No. 6 or 7, and let the bait lie on the bottom, but keep it in con-

tinual motion, for the fish is crafty, and will nibble for some time before he takes it.

EEL.

The eel is generally found in still waters and muddy bottoms ; it is in season all the year, and bites best after a thunder storm. The best baits are wasp grubs, maggots, small red worms, or brandlings. Use a strong line, with a hook No. 4 or 5, and a float ; let the shot lie on the ground, and strike the instant you have a bite.

Eels may also be taken by another method, called bobbing. Procure large garden worms, and string on thread or worsted as many as will make a good sized bunch ; fasten them all to a strong cord, and attach a piece of lead a few inches above the worms ; use a strong pole in place of a rod ; cast the bait into the water, and move it gently up and down till you have a bite ; when you feel the eels tugging at the bait, raise it slowly till you

get it to the top of the water, then land it as quickly and expertly as you can.

BLEAK.

The bleak is found in most rivers; it spawns in May and is then out of season: it will take a small artificial fly of a brown colour, upon a short fly line. The best bait is a maggot, about a foot and a half under water. Use a single hair line, with five or six of the smallest hooks, each three or four inches above the other.

MINNOW.

This small but elegant fish is found in most gravelly streams, and may be taken at any time from March to October. They are equal in delicacy of flavour to any other fish, but, being so small, they are seldom used for the table. They are principally valued as a bait for other fish. Use a single hair line, with two or three of the smallest hooks, and bait with small red worms or maggots.

RIVERS, CANALS, ETC.,

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF LONDON.

THE New River is the place where the London angler generally makes his *début*; it is free for any person to fish in, and has many fine fish in it, from its source, near Ware, in Hertfordshire, to Islington. Chub, roach, dace, perch, gudgeons, eels, bleak, and minnows, may be taken within a mile of London.

The Thames contains all kinds of fish. The jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor of London extends to Staines; up to that point no one is allowed to fish in it during the months of March, April, and May, under penalty of twenty pounds; during these months most of the fresh-water fish cast their spawn.

From Staines to Battersea, various places are staked out, and bailiffs are appointed to preserve the fish from being improperly taken ; within these places the angler may expect good sport, with nearly all kinds of fish.

The River Lea contains many fine fish ; it runs into the Thames at Blackwall. The fish are well protected, and several miles are preserved, to which an annual payment admits you ; in some parts this is a guinea, in others half a guinea. It contains jack, pike, carp, tench, perch, barbel, chub, bream, roach, dace, bleak, gudgeons, eels, and sometimes a trout may be taken.

The Mole, which empties itself into the Thames at East Moulsey in Surrey, contains pike, jack, perch, trout, chub, carp, roach, dace, bream, gudgeons, and other fish. There is good sport in the neighbourhood of Esher, Leatherhead, Cobham, Dorking, and Riegate.

The Surry Canal Dock, at Rotherhithe, is well stocked with jack, perch, roach, bream, and eels. It is a subscription water; a guinea a year, or a shilling for each day's angling.

The Commercial Docks, at Rotherhithe, are well stocked with jack, perch, bream, eels. No one can fish without a director's annual admission ticket.

Ilford river, in the upper part, abounds with roach and dace, and there are also some perch; between Ilford and the Thames there are pike.

Woodford River has perch, chub, roach, and dace.

Stratford River has roach, dace, chub, perch.

Waltham River has large barbel, chub, roach, dace, gudgeon, eels, pike, and carp.

Hounslow River has roach, dace, perch, pike, and gudgeon.

Colne River has chub, roach, dace, perch, and pike.

Uxbridge River has fine trout, but it is rented, and you must obtain leave and pay so much per pound for what you kill.

Lewisham River has good trout, roach, chub, gudgeon, perch, and dace.

Wandsworth River has gudgeon, dace, flounder, perch, pike, carp, and trout.

Mitcham River contains trout.

Merton River contains trout.

Carshalton River contains trout.

Weybridge River has large carp, jack, roach, dace, flounders, pope, barbel, and gudgeon.

Camberwell Canal has eels, jack, roach, and perch.

Paddington Canal has roach, chub, perch, jack, gudgeon, and eels.

LIST OF FLIES,

WITH REFERENCE TO THE PLATES.



1. GREEN DRAKE, OR MAY FLY.—This is one of the most valuable flies for trout fishing. It appears about the 20th of May, and continues nearly a month, and will kill at any time of the day, especially in still water; it is found in great plenty on sandy gravelly rivulets. The wings are made of the light feather of a grey drake, died yellow; the body of amber coloured mohair, ribbed with green silk; the head of peacock's harl; and the tail of three long hairs from a sable muff.

2. BLACK GNAT.—This is a favourite fly with some persons, and is generally considered a good killer, especially when the water is low; it comes on about the end

of April, and continues till the end of May. The body is made of black ostrich's harl, and the wings of a pale starling's feather: it must be dressed short and thick.

3. HARE'S EAR.—This is on during the summer months: the wings are made of the feather from a starling's wing; the body of fur from the hare's ear; and legs of a ginger cock's hackle.

4. COCK TAIL.—This is on during the summer months: the wings are made of the light feather from a snipe's wing; the body of yellow mohair.

5. WHIRLING DUN.—This is also on during the summer months; the wings are made of a snipe's feather; the body of blue fur, wrapped with yellow silk, and a blue cock's hackle for legs; the tail of two hairs from a light coloured muff.

6. GREY DRAKE.—This fly generally appears about the same time as the green

drake, or a little after, and very much resembles it in shape. It kills best from three till dark. The wings are made of a dark grey feather of the mallard; the body of white ostrich's harl, striped with dark silk; the head of peacock's harl; and the tail of three hairs from a sable muff.

7. COW-DUNG FLY.—This fly appears in March, and will kill till September. The wings are made of the feather of a landrail; the body of yellow camlet, mixed with a little brown bear's fur; and a ginger hackle for legs: the wings should be dressed flat.

8. BEE FLY.—This is an excellent chub fly, and is on during the summer months: the wings are made from the feathers of a blue pigeon's wing; the body of chenil of various colours, arranged in stripes in the following order—black, white, light yellow, white, black, white; the legs of a black hackle: the body must be dressed thick.

9. **RED PALMER.**—Palmers are all good killing baits, and may be used during all the fishing months. The body of this is made of dark red mohair, ribbed with gold twist, and wrapped with a red cock's hackle.

10. **PEACOCK PALMER.**—The body of this is made of a peacock's harl, wrapped with a dusky red cock's hackle.

11. **KINGDOM FLY.**—This is on from June to August, and will kill fish in any part of the kingdom. The wings are made of a woodcock's feather; the body of white silk striped with green; and the legs of a red cock's hackle.

12. **WHITE GNAT.**—This is a delicate fly, and will kill well in an evening in the summer months. The wings are made of a small white feather; the body of white silk; and the legs of a red cock's hackle.

13. **BLUE DUN.**—This appears early in March, and is a good fly throughout the

year. The best time for using it is from twelve to two in March and April. The wings are made of a starling's feather; the body of the blue fur from a water rat, mixed with a little lemon coloured mohair; the tail is forked, and should be made of two fibres from the feather used for the wing.

14. **RED ANT.**—This is on from June to August, and is a good killer from eleven till six. The wings are made of a light starling's feather; the body of peacock's harl, made thick at the tail; and a ginger hackle for legs.

15. **GOLD SPINNER.**—This appears about the middle of June, and is on till the end of August. The wings are made of a starling's feather; the body of orange silk, ribbed with gold twist; and the legs of a red hackle.

16. **GREAT WHITE MOTH.**—This is a

night fly and should be used in a dark gloomy night, from eleven o'clock till day-break: when you hear the fish rise strike immediately. The wings are made of a feather from the wing of a white owl; the body of white cotton; and a white cock's hackle wrapped round the body.

17. GOVERNOR.—This appears early in June, and may be fished with till August. The wings are of a woodcock's feather; the body of a peacock's harl, tied with orange silk.

18. MARCH BROWN.—This fly appears about the middle of March, and continues on to the end of April: it is a most excellent fly, and kills best from eleven o'clock till three. The wings are made of the dark mottled feather from the tail of a partridge; the body of fur from a hare's ear, well mixed with a little yellow worsted; and a grizzled cock's hackle for legs.

19. **STONE FLY.**—This fly appears about the beginning of April, and has been found to kill before that time: it may be used at any time of the day. The wings are made of a dusky blue cock's hackle, or a mottled feather from a hen pheasant; the body of dark brown, and yellow camlet mixed; and a grizzled hackle for legs: the wings should lie flat.

20. **BLACK SILVER PALMER.**—The body of black ostrich's harl, ribbed with silver twist, and wrapped with a black cock's hackle.

21. **WILLOW FLY.**—This fly appears in the beginning of September, and kills well during the remainder of the season. The wings are made of a dark grizzled cock's hackle, and the body of blue squirrel's fur, mixed with yellow mohair.

22. **YELLOW PALMER.**—The body is made of a white hackle dyed yellow, the body of yellow silk.

23. **BLACK PALMRR.**—The body of black ostrich's harl, wrapped with a black cock's hackle.

24. **BLACK PALMER RIBBED WITH GOLD.**—The body of peacock's harl, wrapped with a black cock's hackle, and ribbed with gold twist.

The foregoing list comprises twenty-four of the most killing flies, which are figured in the Frontispiece. The following are also considered standard flies.

25. **THE HAZE FLY.**—The haze fly is on during May and June. The wings are made of the red feather from a partridge's tail, not too dark; the body of ostrich harl, of two colours, black and purple, twisted very thick, and the legs of a black cock's hackle.

26. **FERN FLY.**—This appears about the middle of June, and is a very good killing fly. The wings are made of woodcock's feathers, the body of orange-coloured silk, and a pale dun hackle for legs.

27. **LITTLE IRON BLUE** —This fly comes on early in May, and continues till the middle of June; it is found in great numbers on cold windy days. It kills best from eleven o'clock to five. The wings are upright, and should be made of a feather from under a cormorant's wing, or from the tail of a tom-tit; the body of pale blue fur, wrapped with purple silk.

28. **GRAVEL OR SPIDER FLY.**—This appears in the middle of April, and continues about a fortnight. It is a very delicate fly, and is not often seen on cold days; but it is found to kill best then. The wings are made of the feather from a woodcock's wing, the body of lead-coloured silk, with a black cock's hackle wrapped under the wings.

29. **GRANAM, OR GREEN TAIL.**—This appears about the same time as the Gravel Fly, and continues on about a week. The

proper time to use it is from seven to eleven, and after five in the evening. The wings lie flat, and are made of the shaded feather from a partridge or hen pheasant; the body of the dark fur from a hare's ear, mixed with a little blue fur, and a yellow grizzled cock's hackle for legs.

30. ORL FLY.—This fly appears about the end of May, and continues for two months, and is a good killing fly at all hours, if the water is not very low. The wings should be made from the feather of a brown hen, and a grizzle hackle for legs; the body of peacock's harl, worked with dark red silk.

31. BLUE GNAT.—This fly appears about the end of June, and continues about a fortnight; it is a good fly for grayling in September and October. The wings are made of a feather from a snipe's wing, or a blue cock's hackle; the body of light blue fur mixed with a little yellow mohair.

32. OAK FLY, DOWNLOOKER, OR CANON FLY.—This fly is frequently found on oak, ash, and willow trees, in May and June, and points its head downwards. The wings lie flat on the back, and are made with a feather from the wing of a partridge; the head of the fur from the hare's ear; the body of dun fur mixed with orange and yellow mohair.

33. YELLOW SALLY.—This appears early in May and continues till the end of June. The wings lie flat and are made of a hackle dyed yellow; the body of yellow worsted unravelled and mixed with fur from a hare's ear.

34. WHIRLING BLUE.—This appears early in August and continues till the end of the season. The wings are made of the feather of a sea swallow, the body of pale blue fur mixed with yellow mohair, and a pale blue hackle for legs.

MONTHS IN WHICH FLIES USUALLY
APPEAR.

March—Cowdung Fly, Blue Dun, March Brown.

April—Black Gnat, Stone Fly, Gravel, or Spider Fly, Granam or Green Tail.

May—Green Drake, Grey Drake, Oak Fly, Hazel Fly, Little Iron Blue, Orl Fly, Yellow Sally.

June—Hare's Ear, Cock Tail, Whirling Dun, Bee Fly, Kingdom Fly, White Gnat, Blue Gnat, Governor, Fern Fly.

July—Red Ant.

August—Whirling Blue.

September—Willow Fly.

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