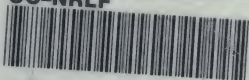


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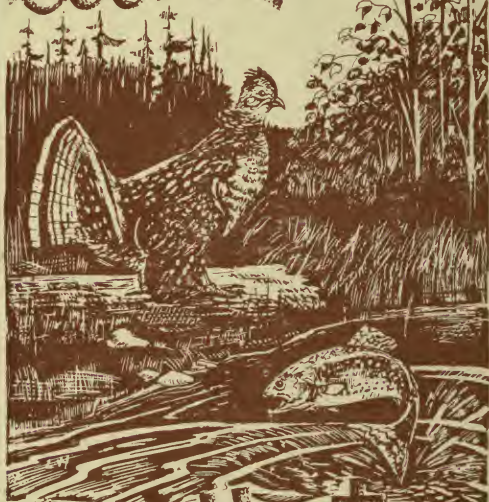


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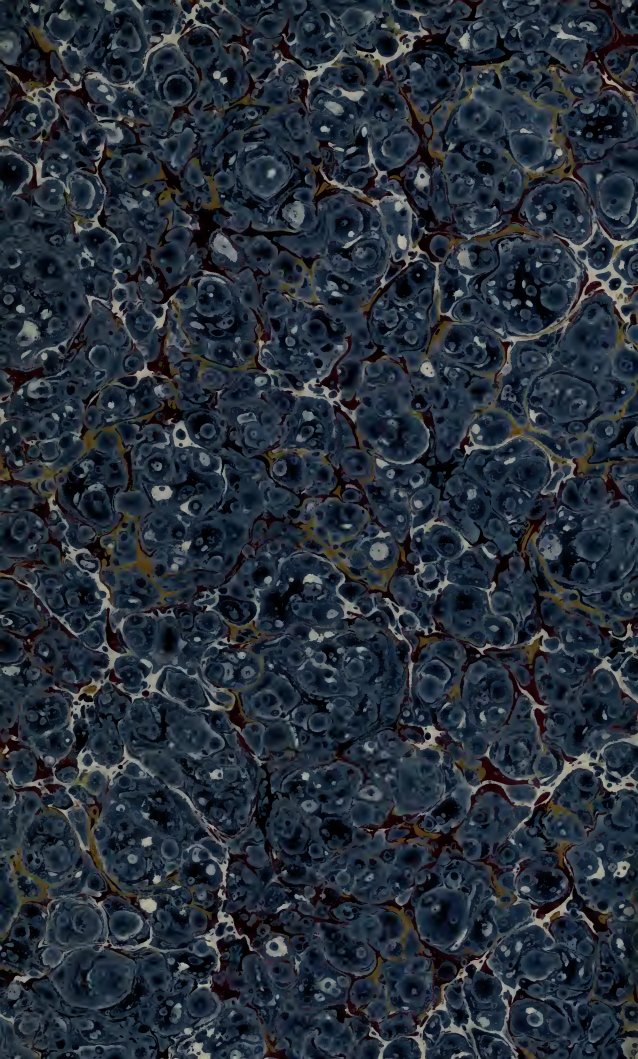
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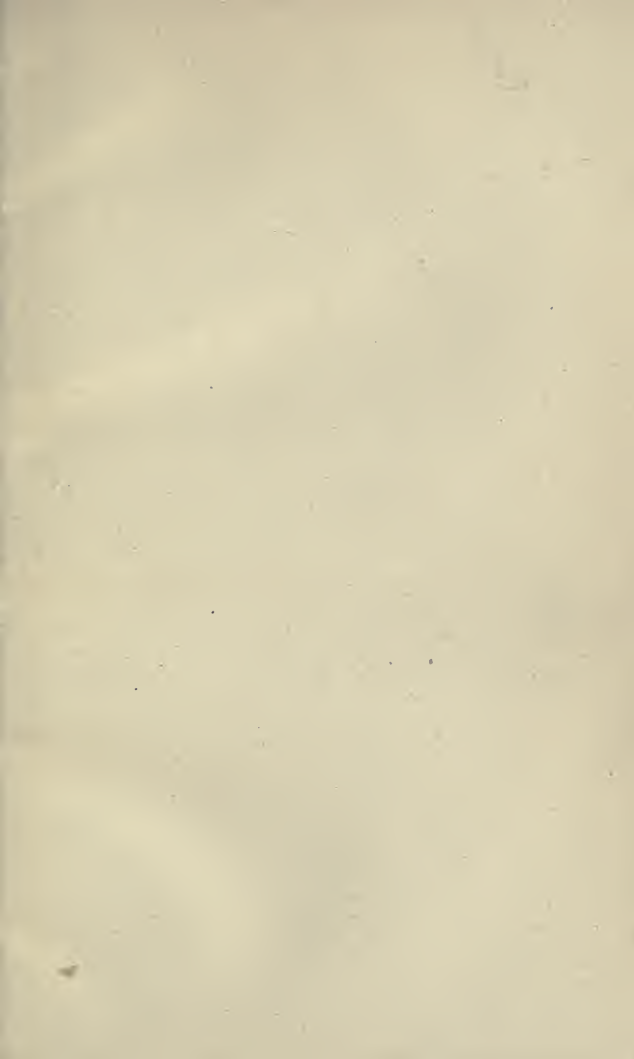


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THE ANGLER.

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THE ANGLER.

ANGLING has long held a high rank among the sports of England, and formed a favourite pursuit with all classes of her people, from the peer to the peasant. Poets have written in its praise, and philosophers delighted in its practice. Wherever the brook wanders "through hazy shaw or broomy glen"—wherever the willow-branch waves in the streamlet—wherever the trout leaps at the may-fly, the pike lurks in the bulrushes, or the salmon springs up at the waterfall,—there is to be found the angler, pursuing with unwearied patience and delight his healthful recreation. The boy just breeched spends his holiday on the banks of a brook, with perhaps a crooked pin for his hook, a needleful of thread for his line, and an alder twig for his rod; and the grey-headed statesman occasionally relaxes from his graver duties—from adjusting the balance of power and determining the fate of nations—"to wield the rod, and cast the mimic fly."*

* His late majesty, George the Fourth, was very partial, during his leisure hours, to the amusement of fishing; and Virginia Water, which covers nearly 1000 acres, afforded him ample scope for this recreation. A most magnificent fishing apparatus was made expressly for his majesty's use by Ustonson, of Temple

FISHING TACKLE.

The angler's first care must of course be to provide himself with the necessary apparatus for pursuing his sport; of which good rods, lines, hooks, and floats, form an indispensable part.

Bar, which was acknowledged to be the most beautiful thing of the kind ever manufactured. The case was three feet long, nine inches broad, and three inches in depth; covered with the richest crimson morocco leather, with double borders of gold ornaments, and the royal arms in the centre; and the interior was lined with Genoa sky-blue velvet, and the inner part of the lid tufted. On either end of the case were partitions for the books or cases for angling and fly-fishing. The angling book was covered with the richest Genoese crimson velvet, the lock surmounted by a diadem of solid gold, and the top ornamented with the royal arms, &c. Within the book was a beautifully embellished ivory carved reel, studded with silver, the lines, floats, &c., for bottom fishing, and likewise partitions with an infinite variety of artificial baits of superior imitation. The fly-book resembled the other on the outside, and was full of choice flies, suitable to the different seasons, &c. In the centre of the box, on a raised cushion of Genoese sky-blue velvet, were the landing ring and net; the former beautifully worked, and the latter made of gold-coloured silk. On each side were the winches, clearing-ring, &c. (in separate partitions), engraved with the maker's name and the crown of England. The rods had extra joints, tops, &c., and might be altered so as to be adapted to any sort of fishing. The rods, and also the landing stick, were richly carved, and engraved with royal emblematical devices. The entire apparatus was acknowledged to be the most beautiful specimen of the art which had ever been manufactured.

Rods.

A great variety of rods may be obtained at the shops, ready made, of bamboo, hazel, vine, and hickory. For general use, those made of bamboo, and having several tops, of various degrees of strength, are best. The rod, when put together, should be perfectly straight, and gradually tapering from the butt to the top.

For the information of those who may be desirous of manufacturing their own rods, we subjoin the following instructions. For the stocks crab-tree will be found preferable (which should be cut in winter), and hazel and yew switches for the tops. Do not use them till they have become fully seasoned, which will require about sixteen months keeping after they are cut; but even beyond this time, the longer they are kept the better they will be. The rod should consist of five or six pieces, so accurately fitted, that when joined together it shall appear as though it consisted but of one piece. The best way of securing the joints is by means of brass ferrules; but if, as is sometimes the case, they are bound together, it must be by thread strongly waxed; the pieces being cut with a slope, or slant, that they may join with the greater exactness. A smooth round taper piece of whalebone may be affixed to the top, about six or eight inches long; on which a strong loop of horse-hair has been previously whipt.

Fly-rods should be more taper than any other description. Rods for trolling must be furnished with brass rings, whipt all the way up, at about ten or twelve inches distance, for the trolling lines to pass through; the tops for trolling must be strong, and have rings whipt on, with pieces of quill, to

prevent the lines being cut. The tops of rods for carp, tench, dace, and roach fishing, should be finer and more elastic.

Your rod must be kept neither too dry nor too moist; for while the one will render it brittle, the other will make it rotten. In very warm weather, always wet the joints of your rod, which will make them adhere better. If, from being too wet, they should stick, so that you cannot get them readily asunder, never use force, but rather wait till they be dry; or sometimes by turning the ferule of the joint which is fast over the flame of a candle, you will be enabled to separate them.

Lines.

Lines made of horse-hair are much to be preferred; and these should be round, twisted even, and of equal thickness. White and grey are the best colours for clear waters, and sorrel for muddy rivers. The most ready way of making your lines is by the aid of a little machine, which you may procure at most of the shops, where also the lines may be procured ready-made.

Hooks.

These are made of various sizes, suitable for the fish they are intended to take, and distinguished by means of numbers. The sizes preferred by anglers at the present day are much smaller than those formerly used. For barbel-fishing, Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, are used; for gudgeon, Nos. 10 or 11; for roach, dace, and bleak, Nos. 10, 11, or 12; for tench, carp, and perch, Nos. 7, 8, or 9; for trout, No. 6; for chub, Nos. 8 or 9; for eels, No. 8; for grayling, No. 10; for ruff, No. 9; for minnows, &c. No. 13, &c.

For the purpose of arming your hooks, use fine, small, strong silk, well waxed, laying the hair on the *inside* of the hook, otherwise the silk will fret and cut it.

It may be well to observe, that hooks of every description are injured by being shaken together in papers, boxes, &c.; the beards get intermixed, and are either broken or blunted. Those especially which are required for your pocket-stock should be stuck into flannel, the same as needles are kept by ladies, and if a little oiled, they will be better preserved from rust.

Floats.

The best kind of floats for slow waters are those made of Muscovy duck quills; but for strong streams, good sound cork without flaws or holes, into which a quill of fit proportion is inserted through a hole bored by a hot iron, will be preferable. The cork should be pared to the form of a pyramid, ground small with a pumice-stone, and coloured according to fancy. You must poise your floats with shot, so that when on the line they will stand perpendicularly in the water, and thereby give you notice of the slightest nibble.

A good paint for cork floats may be made by mixing a little copal varnish with white lead for white, and copal varnish with green powder for green.

Baits.

The lob-worm, garden-worm, and dew-worm, or trechet, are found in gardens and church-yards at night; those with red heads, broad tails, and streaked down the back, are the best. These worms are excellent bait for barbel or eels, and are found towards the latter end of the summer.

Gilt-tails, brandlings, and red worms are found in old dunghills, hog's dung, cow's dung, and tanner's bark. The brandling and gilt-tail are excellent bait for perch, tench, bream, and gudgeon. The red worms, well scoured, are taken by tench, perch, and bream, in muddy waters.

The meadow or marsh worm, is of a lightish blue colour, and a good bait for perch; it is found in marshy ground, or in the banks of rivers, in the months of August and September.

The tag-tail is found in meadows, or chalky ground after rain, in March and April; and is esteemed a good bait for trout, in cloudy weather.

The palmer-worm, woolbed, or canker, is found on herbs, plants, and trees; it takes the name of woolbed, from its rough and woolly coat. This is an excellent bait for trout, chub, grayling, roach, or dace.

The oak worm, caterpillar, cabbage-worm, crab-tree worm, colewort-worm or grub, may be gathered on the leaves of colewort and cabbage, or on the hawthorn, oak, or crab-tree; and may be long preserved with the leaves of those trees or plants, in boxes bored with holes to admit the air. They are good bait for chub, dace, roach, or trout.

The bark-worm, or ash-grub, is found under the bark of a felled oak, ash, elder, or beach, or in the hollow of those trees where rotten. This bait may be used all the year for grayling, dace, roach, or chub. They are kept well in wheat-bran.

The cod-bait, caddis worm, or case-worm, of which there are three sorts, is found in pits, ponds, or ditches; they are excellent bait for bream, tench, bleak, chub, trout, grayling, and dace.

Gentles, or maggots, are easily bred by putrefaction; they may be kept with flesh, and scoured

with wheat-bran. They are good bait for tench, bream, barbel, dace, gudgeon, chub, bleak, and carp.

Cow-dung-bob is found under cow-dung, and somewhat resembles a gentle. It is best kept in earth; and is a good bait for trout, chub, carp, tench, bream, dace, and roach.

The white-grub, or white-bait, is much larger than a maggot; it is found in sandy and mellow ground, and is an excellent bait, from the middle of April to November, for tench, roach, bream, trout, chub, dace, and carp. These baits should be kept in an earthen vessel, with the earth about them, and covered very close.

Flag or dock worms are found among the small fibres of flag roots, and in old pits or ponds. They may be kept in bran; and are good bait for bream, tench, roach, carp, bleak, dace, and perch.

Boiled salmon-spawn is a very good bait for chub, and in some rivers for trout.

Dace, minnows, roach, smelt, gudgeon, bleak, and miller's-thumb, are proper bait for pike.

Grasshoppers, in June, July, and August, their legs and wings taken off, are good for roach, chub, trout, and grayling.

Cheese, or oat-cake, is reckoned killing for chub, barbel, roach, and dace; the cheese you may moisten with honey and water.

The water-cricket, water-louse or creeper, which is found in stony rivers, will often take trout, in March, April, and May.

White snails are good bait for chub early in the morning, and for trout and eels on night hooks.

House-cricket^s are also good, to dib with, for chub.

Paste-Baits.

Paste-baits are not to be angled with in rapid streams; but in pits, ponds, and slow running rivers, on small hooks. In this sort of angling, your eye must be quick, and your hand nimble to strike, or the bait and fish will give you the slip. A quill float is better than cork, as it sooner shows the nibble or bite.

For a chub, take some old cheese, the suet of mutton kidney, and a little strong rennet; mix them finely together, with as much turmeric as will give them a fine yellow colour.

For roach and dace, grate fine bread into a little clear water, wherein some gum-ivy has been soaked, add a little butter, and colour it with saffron.

For barbel, in August, make a paste of new cheese and mutton suet.

For carp or tench, mix crumbs of bread with honey; or, for carp, take equal portions of bean or wheat flower, the inside of the leg of a young rabbit, white bees' wax, and sheep's suet; beat them in a mortar; then moisten the mass with clarified honey, and work it into balls before a gentle fire.

Sheep's blood and saffron make a good paste for roach, dace, bleak, chub, trout, and perch; for the chub only, put a little rusty bacon in it.

Ground-Baits.

The most simple ground-bait for roach, dace, and bleak, is made by moulding or working some clay and bran together, into balls or pieces about the size of a pigeon's egg, with a little bread crumbled among it.

Another ground-bait for chub, carp, roach, and

dace, is made as follows:—Take the crumb of half a quartern loaf, cut it in slices about two inches thick, and put it into a pan covered with water; when soaked, squeeze it nearly dry; add equal quantities of bran and pollard by handfuls, and knead them together, until the whole is nearly as stiff as clay. For barbel, first break about a quarter of a pound of greaves to dust, soak it well in water, and then work it up with the bread, bran, and pollard. Barley-meal may be substituted for the bran and pollard, in still waters only; as, from its lightness, it would be carried away in a rapid stream.

A ground-bait may be made with clay, bran, and gentles, for chub, roach, and carp, thus:—Mix the bran and clay together, in lumps about the size of an apple: put a dozen or more gentles in the middle, and close the clay over them. This is well calculated for a pond, a still hole, or gentle eddy.

To make ground-bait with clay and greaves, for barbel:—Chop or break a pound of greaves into small pieces, and cover them with hot water; let them remain until softened, then pour the water off; pick out a sufficient quantity of the white pieces, to bait your hook, and work up the remainder with clay and bran into lumps or balls. This is the best ground-bait for barbel that is used. It is also an excellent ground-bait for chub, large dace, and heavy roach.

Gentles and worms may be used as ground-bait for carp, tench, roach, dace, &c. In ponds and deep still holes, gentles may be thrown in by handfuls; but this does not answer in a current or stream, as they then float, and are carried from the spot you intend to angle in; a few, mixed with bran and clay, will answer better.

Grains are good ground-bait for carp, tench, and eels, in ponds or still waters; but they must be quite fresh, for if they be in the least sour, the fish will not come near them. They should be thrown in the night before you intend to fish; the same method ought to be observed when you ground-bait with worms. Some anglers prefer coarse ground-bait made with clay, soaked greaves, and oat-chaff, for barbel and chub.

Necessary Articles.

The following articles also will be found useful, and most of them indispensable. A little whetstone to sharpen your hooks; hooks for trolling—the gorge, snap, &c. tied on gimp; winches for running tackle; disgorgers; split shot; hooks tied on gut of various sizes, to No. 12; hooks tied on hair, from No. 11 to 13; bags for worms; gentle boxes; floats of various sizes; plummet for taking the depth; baiting needles; caps for floats; kettle for carrying live bait; rods for trolling and bottom fishing; drag to clear the line, when entangled in heavy weeds; landing net; clearing-ring; lines of gut, hair, &c.—those of four yards long will be found most useful.

OF THE VARIOUS KINDS OF FISH.

Trout.

The trout varies considerably in colour, and also in size; the usual size is about half a pound. The common trout is a very handsome fish, having a well-formed body, not unlike a salmon, though rather stouter in proportion to its length: its head,

however, is short, and not so pointed; its eye more bright and expressive; its tail not so much forked; and its fins more lightly tinged, being of a yellowish red cast, especially toward their edges. Its body and gills abound with beautiful red and black spots while it is in season and fit for the table. These spots appear more faint and indistinct as it approaches its spawning time (about October and November), during which it is scarcely eatable.

Fishing for trout requires great skill. No fish are so nice in biting, so choice in taking the bait, or so shy of the hook. If they see the line, they will seldom bite at all; if they see the angler, never; and therefore, if you fish for them with a *single* hair at the hook, or for two or three links above the hook, you will catch five for one that you would by fishing with a link of twisted hair. It is true, a very large trout will break all away, and is not always to be taken by a single hair; but trout from twelve to fifteen inches long may be taken by this tackle.

A trout is very strong and swift, and will struggle long before he will yield, running among weeds, roots of trees, old piles, and into holes, and by this means often entangling and breaking the tackle. As soon as struck, they run away with the line like a pike, but may be drawn gently out by the hand of the skilful angler; the second time they will not run so far as at the first. When spent and fatigued with struggling, they may be landed by a hand or landing-net, and secured.

Though he loves swift waters, he lies in the quietest place he can find in such streams; as, for instance, under a headland or point, where the current occasions an eddy; and there, sheltered by the land, he lies in wait for what the stream may

bring along with it. The angler therefore, after having ascertained the place, should keep himself as far back as the length of his line will allow, and throwing in above the place, let the bait drive by with the stream, keeping himself unperceived. If the trout does not strike at the bait as it passes in the stream, do not draw it out, but gently bring it out of the stream into the eddy, which will carry it back to the place where the fish lies, or so near that he will see it, and it is most likely he will strike at it as it comes on: if he does not yet take notice of it, let it drive out again into the stream, and so let it go down and come back again two or three times. If he does not take it in that time, you may conclude the gentleman is not at home; so you may remove, and call as you come that way again; but if the trout be really there, and does not take it, most probably he has seen either the line, the rod, or the angler.

The best time to fish for trout is early in the morning and late in the evening: from about nine in the morning till three in the afternoon you will not find them likely to bite.

Trout prefer such bait as play freely in the water, at about half depth; or such as lie near the ground. But there are waters in which the float is indispensable, and when you use a float, you will not require a swivel.

Trout are eager after flies of all kinds, but are particularly partial to the red and black palmer, also to the yellow May-fly while in season; the woodcock's-wing, the grouse hackle, and the small brown grasshopper, are considered very good for the purpose. During the close summer evenings, they will take the double-winged fly, the deep

gether; in fact, we may say their haunts are the same. In warm summer weather, shoals of them may often be seen basking in the shallows.

Perch.

The perch is a bold fish, and generally takes a bait immediately it is offered. Strong tackle is used in angling for them, a cork float, gut line, or a twisted hair, and No. 7 hook. The usual bait is a worm well scoured, or two red worms on a hook instead of one of the other kind, which are larger.

They are also angled for with a live minnow, hooked on by the lips or back fin, shrimps, or large grey maggots taken from potatoe or turnip plants. When fishing in this manner for perch, you should always have running tackle on; for sometimes a pike, trout, or chub will take it, and larger perch are oftener caught this way than with a worm. It is likewise necessary to give them a few minutes time to pouch, and as they often run a considerable distance before they do this, without running tackle you would certainly break your line, or lose the fish. When you have a bite with a worm bait, let him run about the length of a yard, and then strike smartly: the bait should be about a foot from the bottom. Some angle for perch with two hooks on a line, one at mid-water, the other lower.

Perch feed very little during the hot months; but dark windy weather, if not too hot, is best. They will be found about bridges, mill ponds, locks, dark still holes and eddies, ponds about flood-gates, on the gravel or sandy parts, and near rushes.

Tench.

The tench bites freely in dark, warm, heavy weather, during the summer. They are found in small numbers in the rivers Thames and Lea, the Camberwell and Croydon canals, the Roding near Red Bridge at Wanstead, and in the ponds of Wanstead Park. For bait, use red worms, gentles, or sweet paste. Fish with a fine gut line, quill float, and hook No. 9. The tench delights in foul rather than clear water, principally among weeds, and under shrubs and bushes. Tench are more numerous in pits and ponds than in rivers. They bite more freely late and early than in the middle of the day, from the latter end of April until their spawning time in June, and again during the month of August and the early part of September. If taken in muddy places, they should be put into a tub of clear water alive, and they will soon cleanse themselves, so as to improve their flavour.

Barbel,

So called from the barbs which hang from the nose or snout, is handsome in shape, and with scales placed in a most exact and curious manner. He is long like the pike, though not quite so long; when large, his proportioned parts best show themselves. They generally choose a gravelly shoal, and lie at one end of it; and if it is near the shore, they get under the bank, where, routing with their noses like a hog, they make a hollow, in which they lie, sucking the earth of the bank, and the finest of the gravel, upon which they are said in part to subsist.

In summer he comes from under the bank, and lies at the head of the shoal or sand. If he has not

such a retreat as this, he seeks one under bridges, and about mill-tails or the apron of sluices, flood-gates, and weirs. In such places as these he finds a pretty sure harbour, nor can the fiercest shooting of the current drive him out; at the beginning of winter, he shifts his haunts, and lies in deep water, or under the banks.

The nicest bait for a barbel is a well-scoured clean red worm, or dew worm, or the gentle, also very clean; he is also taken with a bait of new cheese, and with pastes, and with the bait called bob; but the worm will be found best, as these light baits are easily drawn off by such a cunning fellow.

Use No. 7 or 8 hook; and in the river Lea, either a bamboo or cane rod with a stiff top, running tackle, fine gut line, No. 9 hook, and red worms, gentles, or greaves.

The barbel is a fine fish to look at, and good sport for the angler; but of little value for the table. As he bites very cautiously, it requires some skill to hook him. When you have him tight, your work is but beginning, for he struggles hard and long, and as he is a very strong fish, so he never gives up while he has any life in him.

The biting of the barbel is to be nicely watched; for if you are not very careful, he will get your bait off the hook, and never come in danger of the hook; therefore be careful in putting the bait on, so that he cannot, by taking the top of it in his mouth, draw it off the hook; for he will suck it so strongly, and pull so cautiously, and yet so hard withal, that he will have it off the hook if it be possible. Let him nibble and suck; and while he does, you may gently draw with your hand, as if

the worm was pulling itself to get from him, and then he will be a little more eager and greedy; and when you find he has it, strike him—the sooner the better, for as soon as he takes the bait he clasps his jaws tightly together, and then a smart pull will hook him.

Before you commence angling, throw in plenty of ground bait, and continue to do so frequently while fishing; use soaked greaves and clay, malt grains, broken lob-worms, or bran and clay mixed together in balls the size of an egg. Boiled salmon's roe is said to make an excellent bait for them.

The best time for this fish is May to October, all day, but best in the morning and evening. Fine barbel will be found in the White Horse Water, in the Horse and Groom Subscription Water, Lea Bridge, and as far up the river as Waltham Abbey; in the Subscription Water, Bleak Hall, Edmonton; in the Thames, at Chertsey Bridge, Shepperton, Walton, and Hampstead Deeps, Thames Ditton, Kingston, Twickenham, and Richmond.

Chub.

The chub is rather longer than a carp, and has a larger and flatter head than a dace. The back is of an obscure green, like an unripe olive.

When angling for chub, if you have reason to expect a heavy fish, use running tackle, gut line, quill float, and hook No. 8 or 9. Strike the moment you perceive a bite, and let run; for the chub, when struck, generally runs furiously to the middle or opposite side before stopping. The baits for chub are greaves, red worms, gentles, paste, and bullock's brains, or pith from the back bone. Trolling or angling with a live minnow is often

successfully practised, particularly in spring, by which method many large chub are taken. At this season, red worms are also good bait; put two on your hook, for the chub loves a large bait: in the summer months, gentles and greaves; during winter, bullock's brains or pith; when that bait is not to be procured, use paste made of bread and honey. Before you begin to angle for chub, throw in plenty of ground bait. Fish as near the middle of the stream as you can in the spring months, and let the bait drag two or three inches on the ground.

You may amuse yourself sometimes by the following method, which is considered highly scientific. Go to one of their holes, where, in most hot days, you may find a number of them floating near the top of the water. Put a grasshopper upon your hook, and placing yourself behind a tree, remain as free from motion as possible, let it hang a quarter of a yard short of the water: to keep it steady, support your rod on the bough of the tree, or on a bush. It is likely the chubs will sink at the first shadow of your rod, as they are the most fearful of fishes, and shy if but a bird flies over them and makes the least shadow on the water, though they will presently rise to the top again. While they thus lie at the top of the water, fix your eyes on the best chub, and move your rod gently towards him. Let the bait fall easily upon the water, three or four inches before him, and he will infallibly take it, and you will be as certain to catch him; for he is one of those leather-mouthed fishes, of which a hook scarcely ever loses its hold. Be sure to give him play enough to hook him, before you take him out of the water.

Gudgeon.

The gudgeon is straight, slender, neatly shaped, finely spotted on the back and tail, and of a bright clear colour, almost transparent; it is a pleasant, well-tasted, wholesome fish to eat, and easy of digestion.

The gudgeon loves a clear water, a sandy or gravelly bottom, a gentle stream, not rapidly swift, nor heavily slow and dull; and they chiefly delight in small rivers: hence it is observed of the Thames, that all the smaller rivers that run into it are full of excellent gudgeons, but not the Thames itself.

They bite fair and bold, and will take bait and hook all down together, without fear; therefore use a small, fine hook, and a neat round bait, just enough to cover it.

When you fish for them in shallows, take a long pole with an iron rake at the end of it, and disturb the sand or gravel; then throw in, and they will float round.

Angle for gudgeons with a cork float, so that you may distinguish their bite; let your bait lie on the ground, but so as to drive with the stream, which the cork flat will help it to do, and keep it stirring.

The bait for a gudgeon is the red worm, clean and wholesome, not stale, or the cadis, or gentle, or paste, all in their turn; and if you wish to bait the ground for them, the best method is, only to throw in a basket of dry earth and sand, and when you are sure they are come to it, throw in some paste in small quantities at a time, and in small round pellets, of such a size as they may easily swallow at once.

You must not be too hasty with a gudgeon when he bites; for sometimes he will nibble at your bait a little, as if he had a mind to taste it first, and see if he likes it; but he will come again, and then you will have him, unless he has discovered the hook, when you must use another kind of bait.

In the Thames, fish for them with a red worm, gentle, or blood worms, gut or hair line, and No. 9 or 10 hook. In the Lea or New River, use a finer tackle, and bait with blood worms.

Bleak and Minnow.

Bleak are found in all rivers in immense numbers; they are handsome fish, but do not grow to a large size. Angle for them with a light rod, single hair line, small quill float, and No. 12 or 13 hook. They will bite all day from April till October, affording the young angler sport and practice. Bait with a few gentles; or use three or four different baits, as for instance a blood-worm, gentle, cadis, a common house fly, or a bit of red paste.

For minnows, bait with a blood-worm, a bit of red worm, gentles, or paste. Throw in occasionally a few grains or chewed bread to keep them near the bait. They may be taken from April to October any time throughout the day.

Bream.

The bream grows to a very large size, sometimes five or six pounds. They frequent the broadest parts of the river, where it is deep and the stream gentle. They are also to be found in mill-ponds, in the vicinity of weeds, and in clayey or muddy bottoms. The larger ones are called carp bream,

being yellow, resembling the carp in colour, and are supposed to be a distinct species from the white bream.

The best months for angling are August and September, very early in the morning or after sunset. The lob-worm is the best bait for the larger bream, and the place ought to be baited with them for some time previously. White bream are caught by using boiled malt alone as a ground-bait, baiting the hook with gentles or well-scoured worms; a running-line must be used, and a plumb, as directed for barbel. The hook, however, must be smaller; No. 2 or 3 will be the proper size.

The bream bites best when there is a slight breeze; but when the water is rough, the bait must be placed near the bottom. They bite very slowly, and the larger they are the slower they bite. The bait should be laid in softly in the middle of the ground-bait, but let not the lead be above two feet under water. When the fish bites, he will throw up the float; and when it is perceived to lie flat upon the surface of the water, it may then be concluded that the fish has gorged the bait; strike it gently, and hold the rod at a bend for a short time, for if you both pull, the fish may be lost, if not the hook and line also.

It is not advisable to angle more than three or four days for bream in the same place, as the fish become shy and wary.

Pope or Ruffe.

This fish is found in several of our rivers; but the river Yore in Norfolk affords the greatest number. It somewhat resembles a perch, although the former is more slender, and the length rarely exceeds six

inches. The principal spawning time is the beginning of April, but some are said to spawn again in October. Its haunts are in reclusive places, where the water is deep and runs quietly, with a loamy or muddy bottom. The tackle should be fine; the hook No. 8 or 9; a quill float; the bait a small well-scoured red worm, which must just run on the ground. Throw in some clay balls with worms, as directed for perch; or if the water be clear, use common mud balls to colour it.

Three rods may be easily managed, the baits touching the bottom. When there is a bite, strike directly, for they gorge so hastily that the knife must frequently be used to get out the hook. Both in spring and summer they will bite all day with a brisk warm wind, and sometimes in cold weather will take the bait very freely.

Grayling.

The grayling is generally found in clear quick streams with clayey bottoms. It spawns in April, and sometimes as late as the middle of May. This is a rare fish in England, and has never been found in Scotland or Ireland. It may be fished for at all seasons of the year, particularly in cool cloudy weather. The tackle should be of the finest description; the bottom to be at least two yards of gut, leaded with two shots about a foot from the hook; very slender transparent gut, of the colour of the water, is best. Use a small goose-quill float; if worms be the bait, the hook should be No. 5 or 6; if maggots, No. 8 or 9. Great caution must be used in landing grayling, as they are very tender-mouthed.

Grayling may be frequently caught with cabbage-

grubs, cod-baits, and grasshoppers, either natural or artificial. Allow the bait to sink by degrees to the bottom, and then draw it up about two feet, rather suddenly.

The best bait for them is a worm or a gentle.

Eels.

The eel has a long smooth body, moistened all over with a viscous liquor, which renders it very slippery. He feeds upon earth-worms, small fish, and snails.

There are four sorts of eels; the silver eel, the greenish or grog eel, the red-finned eel, and the blackish eel: this last has a broader, flatter, and larger head than the rest, and is counted the worst. In the Thames, the fishermen give them particular names; but the most usual are, the silver eel, and the grog: this last is thicker and shorter than the other sort, and of a darker colour.

The favourite haunts of eels are still waters, amongst weeds, under the roots of trees and large stones, and in the clefts of the banks of rivers. The habits of the eel are nocturnal, and the finest and largest are usually caught with night-lines. The best bait for angling is the lob-worm; the hook small, about No. 3 or 4; and it is proper to use a small plumb or pistol-bullet. They bite best in dark cloudy weather, after showers attended with thunder and lightning.

Snigglng or bogglng for eels is only to be practised on a warm day, when the waters are low. This requires a strong line, and a small hook baited with a lob-worm. Put the line into the top of a thin stick (which you must split a little way, to hold it), about a foot and a half from the bait, and

then thrust it into such holes and places as under stones, timber, roots, or about flood-gates. When the eel takes the bait, gently disengage the line from the stick, but do not try to pull him out at once; let him tire himself a little, and then you can easily take him.

Another method is called *bobbing*, and is as follows:—Procure the largest size garden worms, and, after well scouring them, run a very strong thread or silk through them from end to end by means of a needle, till you have as many as will wrap lightly round your hand about a dozen times; then tie them fast with the two ends of the thread so that they may hang in hanks; fasten all to a strong cord, and, about three inches above the worms, place about three-quarters of a pound of lead, making the cord fast to a long and strong pole. You will find, with the bait thus arranged, that the eels will try strongly at the worms; and when you suppose that they have swallowed the bait as far as they can, draw the worms and the eels gently up out of the water, and when at the surface pull them up with all your strength and land them as quick as possible.

Another way to take eels is by laying baited night-hooks, which are to be fastened to a tree, or the bank, in such a manner that they may not be drawn away by the eels; or a string may be thrown across the stream, with several hooks fastened to it. The line must be tied to a large plummet of lead, or stone, which must be thrown into the water with the line in some remarkable place, so that it may be found readily in the morning, and taken up with a drag-hook, or otherwise.

Pike, or Jack.

This is called the fresh-water wolf, and is the boldest, merciless, and most voracious fish in our rivers, not confining its depredations to other species, but attacking such of its own species as it can readily swallow.

The pike has a flat head, the upper jaw broad, and shorter than the lower: the under jaw turns up a little at the end, and is marked with minute punctures. The teeth are very sharp, disposed not only in the front of the upper jaw, but in both sides of the lower, in the roof of the mouth, and often in the tongue. The mouth is very wide, the eyes small.

The pike spawns generally in March, but sometimes in the last week of February, or in the early days of April. As soon as the spawning is over, they return for a few days to the deep water, and during mid-day lie basking on the surface in a torpid state. It is while in this situation, that they are taken by the snare; but the fish at this period are poor in taste, and considered unwholesome.

The largest fish are most apt to indulge in basking; they are particularly shy at these seasons, and at such times will seize a bait with great seeming eagerness, but generally relinquish it as instantaneously.

There are several methods of catching pike; two of which only belong to the angler, namely, *snapping* and *trolling*: the other methods are practised only by poachers.

The *Snap* tackle consists of a single hook, larger and stouter than any within the register, which being fastened to strong gimp is inserted at the mouth of a gudgeon or other small fish (the smaller, indeed,

the more certain), and brought out either at the middle of its side or just before the vent.

By some anglers the *treble* snap is preferred: this is made by bracing three such hooks together, so that their points stand out from each other, and then securing them to a piece of gimp, which is inserted by means of a baiting-needle at the vent, and carried out at the mouth, which is afterwards sewed up and perforated by a lip-hook.

The best baits are gudgeons and dace of a middling size; but in default of these, roach, bleak, small trout, or salmon fry.

A cork float is necessary, about the size of a common Burgundy pear, with a small pistol bullet or two, not only to poise it, but to keep the bait at a proper depth.

Whatever may be the length or thickness of your line, you will find it useful to have a small swivel on it somewhere; if within a yard of your hook, the better.

When the pike takes your bait, if the water is clear, you may see him at a great depth; at least there will be a perceptible agitation of the water, proportioned to its depth, and the size of the fish: for a pike generally seizes with violence, even though the bait be close to him.

At all events, if you do not see any of these symptoms, you will soon feel him. If you are prepared with the snap, strike firmly, but not with a jerk, lest you tear away through his jaw, or break your hook.

You should be extremely careful in your management of a pike when hooked; for he will, if possible, run into the most desperate situations, and try the strength of your tackle by various stratagems.

Treat him tenderly, for his mouth is very hard, and

you will frequently find that the hook, instead of having gone through the jaw, rests by a very slight hold of the point of some tough part, from which it is easily displaced; when such is the case, your hook is in danger of snapping at the bend, against which the point acts as a lever when so situated.

Trolling for pike is a pleasant method of taking them. The trolling-rod has several small rings fixed on the different joints; upon the butt-joint is fitted a reel with its winch. On the reel is wound twenty, thirty, or forty yards of silk line, which passes through the rings on the rod, and is then fastened to the gimp with which the hook is armed. The hook is made by bracing two small perch-hooks back to back. From between the hooks hangs a little chain, at the end of which is a small plummet. The plummet is to be sewn into the mouth of a dead fish, such as a roach or gudgeon, the hooks being left just outside, exposed to sight. The bait, thus fastened, is to be kept in constant motion in the water, sometimes suffered to sink, then gradually raised, now drawn with the stream, and then against it, the better to counterfeit life. If the pike be at hand, he will take it for a living fish, seize it and run off to his lurking-place, and in about ten minutes gorge it. Give a sudden jerk, play with him till he is tired, draw him towards the bank, and with a landing-net carefully take him out of the water. He must not by any means be lifted out of the water with the rod and line only; for although to all appearance the fish may be tired, yet the moment he quits the water, he will open his mouth, and, by tearing his stomach with his own weight, get quit of the hook; and the fish will not only be lost, but he will die in the water.

Note - was about 5 p.m.

Smelt

Is a fish not unlike the trout, only longer in proportion to its size. It is commonly found about six inches long; but near Warrington they are often caught measuring twelve or thirteen inches.

This is a fish of passage, and visits the Thames and other large rivers twice a year, in March and August. The first time they will advance as far as Chiswick; but at the last, they make a stand about Blackwall.

In March, if the spring be mild, prodigious quantities of this fish make their appearance in the river Mersey, which often seems of a greenish colour, from the vast quantities of smelts which then swim about. At this time every boat, every fisherman, and every net are employed; and even the boys with cabbage-nets catch these fish, which are double the size of those usually caught in the Thames; oftentimes the baskets, pails, boats, and the very banks, are filled with sparklings, as they are called in Cheshire, which are frequently sold at fourpence per score.

The best way of angling for them is with a pater-noster line, with small shot to sink it under water. Your bait should be earth-bobs, gentles well scoured, paste, or the fish itself cut into small pieces, sufficient to cover your hook. They are seldom caught by angling, as they stay but a little time after they have spawned, though in the salt part of the Mersey they may be caught with nets all the year round.

Mullet.

The mullet is much like a dace in shape, and has a flat head with a sharp snout; and when largest, his size is above a foot and a half long.

He is said to live upon weeds and mud; however, it is certain that he abstains from fish.

These fish are bold feeders, and are to be caught with most flies that entice the trout. Within two feet of the bottom, they will take the lob-worm, or the marsh-worm; but your tackle must be strong, for they struggle hard for their lives.

Bleak.

The bleak is a small, fat, pleasant fish, called by some the fresh-water sprat, and by others the river swallow, on account of its continual motion. It will rise, like the dace, at a common house-fly upon the surface of the water, or it will take a gentle, or white paste, about a foot and a half under water. The smallest hooks are the most proper for them, and a paternoster line, that is, a single hair line with six or seven hooks, each three or four inches above the other, baited with gentles, or cadis, well scoured. The paste recommended for bream forms a good bait for the bleak. It frequents deep rivers, sandy bottoms, in eddies, and at the stern of ships.

The bleak may be caught with a very fine artificial fly, of a sad brown colour, and very small, and the hook of a proportionate size. In angling for bleak in the Thames, the bait must be laid deeper than in other rivers; and it is to be observed, that generally in rivers the bleak continues sound and healthful during the whole of the summer. There is not any better sport than whipping for bleaks in a boat or on a bank in swift waters on a summer's evening, with a hazle top about five or six inches long, and a line twice the length of the rod. The bleak is an excellent fish to initiate a young angler in fly-fishing. It forms a capital bait for pike.

Gudgeon.

The gudgeon spawns twice or three times in the course of the year, and is in season from March to October. In the summer it delights in shallow streams, the bottoms of which are sandy and gravelly. They will frequently bite during the whole of the day from an hour after sun-rise till within an hour of sun-set, without any particular consideration as to the state of the weather. In autumn, when the weeds begin to rot, they retire to the deep waters.

The customary method of angling for gudgeon is to rake up the sand or gravel, and by that means render the water thick and foul, which will make them bite the faster. Or another plan may be adopted, of throwing dried earth or dust into the river; but if the water be made thick with rain, they will not bite. They will take gentles, or the cowdung worm; but the small red-worm is the most killing bait for them. The gudgeon is not a shy fish; on the contrary, if they be driven from their customary places of resort, they will immediately return to them.

A single hair-line, a fine taper rod, a float, and a small hook, must be used; and the bait must drag upon the ground.

In fishing for gudgeons a rake is indispensable, with which the bottom of the river must be raked every quarter of an hour, and the fish will flock to the place in shoals.

The gudgeon is a fish in some request, both for its flavour and the sport it affords to the inexperienced angler. It is very simple, and is allured by almost any kind of bait; but it will never rise at the fly.

Loach.

The loach is an inhabitant of clear rivulets, and commonly resides at the bottom among stones and gravel, and is on that account sometimes called by the name of groundling; it is generally about three inches long; is of a dirty yellow colour on the back, and white and somewhat spotted on the belly. In point of delicacy it is said to be equal, if not superior, to most other fishes, and is cultivated with much care in some places as an article of diet. The loach is observed to spawn in March, and is very prolific. It is frequently taken when angling for minnows.

Bullhead.

The bullhead, or miller's-thumb, is to be found in almost all rivers; it rarely exceeds the length of three inches; its general colour is yellowish olive, much deeper on the head, and upper parts of the back; and the whole body is more or less clouded with small dusky specks; the fins are large and yellowish, and likewise speckled; the head is large and flat, and broader than any part of the body. This fish occasionally swims with great strength and rapidity, when in pursuit of its prey; though its general habit is that of lying on the gravel, or under stones, in an apparently inert state. Notwithstanding its disagreeable appearance, it is considered as an eatable fish, and is even regarded as delicate; the flesh turns of a red or salmon-colour on boiling. The bullhead usually spawns in March and April. This fish also is frequently caught when angling for minnows.

Stickleback.

This fish is almost an universal inhabitant of rivers, ponds, and marshes, and when in its full perfection of colour is highly beautiful; the back being of a fine olive green, the sides silvery, and the fins and belly of a bright red; the colours fade in a great degree as the season advances. The general length of this minute species is about two inches; on each side and on the back are placed several strong jagged spines, from whence it derives its name.

It is a fish of an extremely active and vigorous nature, swimming rapidly, and preying upon the smaller kinds of water-insects and worms, as well as on the spawn of other fishes; and is, from this circumstance, considered highly prejudicial to fish-ponds. Its only use is to troll with for trout, previously cutting off the spines.

Salmon.

Salmon may be called the king of fresh-water fish, and has different names, according to its different ages. Those that are taken in the river Mersey, in Cheshire, the first year, are called smelts; in the second, sprods; the third, morts; the fourth, fox-tails; the fifth, half-fish; and in the sixth, when they have attained their growth, they are thought worthy of the name of salmon. The smelts leave the Mersey about May or June, and are then about two ounces a-piece, and return about August and September, and are from one to two pounds.

The most alluring bait for the salmon is a raw cockle taken from the shell; with this, fish at the

bottom, using a running bullet. This is practised in the river Medway, in Kent, with success; let the cockle fall into a shallow from which there is a gradual descent into a deep hole. In most of the salmon rivers of France, they use prawns, or muscles taken out of the shell.

It is needless to caution the young practitioner against angling for salmon from September to March; because during that time they usually leave their haunts in the fresh for the salt water.

The usual baits are lob-worms, small dace, gudgeons, bleak, minnows, or two well-scoured dew-worms, which should be often varied, in order to suit the fickle humour of this fish; for the bait which will allure him one day, he will pass by the next, without noticing. He generally bites best about three in the afternoon, in May, June, and July, especially if the water happen to be clear, and there be a little breeze of wind stirring; but there will be still greater likelihood of success if the wind and stream set contrarywise.

There is a fly, called the horse-leech fly, of which he is very fond; they are of various colours, have large heads and bodies, long tails, with two and even three pair of wings placed behind each other: behind each pair of wings, whip gold and silver twist about the body, and do the same with the head. With this fly angle at length, as directed for trout and grayling; but if you dib, do it with two or three butterflies of different colours, or with the most glaring small flies you can find.

When you make use of a fly, let your hook be strong and large; but it would be better to have two well-scoured lob-worms, as they will be found most successful in angling at the bottom. In this

case, let your hook be large, and armed with gimp; for though a salmon, when struck, very seldom attempts to bite the line, yet, as you will be obliged to play the fish for some time, the line will rake against his teeth, and you will be in great danger of losing your prize without this precaution. Next to gimp are recommended the bristles of a Westphalia hog, doubled; which are only preferable to others on account of their length. If therefore, you cannot easily procure the former, you may make use of the common ones, which being often lapped into the length of half a yard, have been found proof against the teeth of a pike, when trolling for that fish.

Wherever you observe a salmon leap out of the water, you may safely conclude there is a deep hole not far off; and if the river is too broad for you to throw a fly, or if a contrary wind hinder you, then lay your leger bait as near the hole as you can, and you will have great probability of success. If you bait with a dace, gudgeon, &c., put on your swivel and reel, and make use of a large cork float, with your live-bait about mid-water.

NATURAL FLY FISHING.

For natural fly-fishing, the rods should be long and slender; the lines fine, but not so long as those used for artificial fly-fishing; the tackle running; and the hooks short in the shanks, and well proportioned in size to the baits. In streams, begin by fishing just under the banks or near the shore, and proceed by degrees, until at length you may throw your line the whole breadth of the water. In rivers, which, during the summer months, produce an abundance of weeds, you should fish

between those places where the current is strongest, taking care so to manage your line as not to get it entangled. When fishing with natural flies, all the other haunts of the different fish which we have elsewhere mentioned should be frequented. Let the fly just reach the surface of the water, and go gently down the stream; the top of your rod should be a little raised, and the bait kept in motion upon the surface, by gently raising, lowering, and drawing it to and fro. When a fish takes your bait, after a moment strike smartly; and, if he be not so large as to break your tackle, lift him out immediately; for by playing with him you may, probably, scare away others.

The best mode of keeping natural flies, is in a horn bottle made in the shape of a cone, with a wooden bottom, in which several holes must be pierced; which should be sufficiently numerous to afford the flies air, but none of them large enough to suffer your smallest bait to escape; a cork must be obtained to fit the upper or smaller end, so that you may take your baits out, one by one, without losing any. If the flies be kept in a common box, there is a great chance of half a dozen flying out every time you lift the cover.

ARTIFICIAL FLY-FISHING.

Artificial fly-fishing is by far the most difficult part of angling; much time and practice are required to make the tyro an adept in it; by theory it can never be attained; a few months instruction, under an experienced person, will be more beneficial toward its acquirement than the perusal of all the works extant on the subject. With the preliminary

part or rudiments of the science (for so it may with propriety be called), the young angler may, however, make himself acquainted, and may, with practice, attain considerable proficiency in artificial fly-fishing; but it cannot be learnt so soon, or so well, from books as from an experienced instructor.

To make Artificial Flies.

Dun-fly.—Make the body of dun-coloured wool; the wings of partridge feathers, black drake's feathers, or the feathers from under the tail. A proper fly for March.

Stone-fly.—The body is made of black wool, yellow under the wings and under the tail; the wings are made of a mallard's feathers. This fly is in season in April.

Ruddy-fly.—Make the body of red-wool, wrapt about with blue silk; the wings make of the wing-feathers of a drake and a red hackle. This fly is proper for the beginning of May.

Black-fly.—Make the body of black wool, wrapt about with peacock's tail; the wings are feathers from the wings of a brown capon, with the blue feather in its head. This fly is in season in May.

Sand Yellow Fly.—Body of black wool, with a yellow list on either side; the wings of buzzard's feathers, bound with hemp. A good fly for June.

Moorish Fly.—Body of duskish wool; the wings are black feathers from a small drake. Another excellent fly for June.

Taring Fly.—Body of bear's wool; the wings made contrary one against the other, of the whitish feathers of a small drake. To be used in the middle of June.

Shell Fly.—Body of greenish wool, wrapt about

with pearls of a peacock's tail; the wings are made of buzzard's feathers. An excellent fly for the middle of June.

Wasp Fly.—Body of black wool, wrapt about with yellow silk; the wings are made of the feathers of a buzzard or drake. This may be used in July.

Dark Drake Fly.—Body of black wool, wrapt about with black silk; the wings are made of the feathers of a male drake with a black head. Proper fly for August.

May Fly.—Body of greenish or willow-coloured cruel, darkened in most places with waxed silk, or ribbed with black hair, or a silver thread; the wings may be made of grey feathers. This fly may be used at any time.

Oak Fly.—The body made of orange-peel and black cruel; the wings, the brown feathers of a mallard. This also may be used at any time.

FLIES PROPER FOR EACH MONTH. !

February.—Palmer flies, little red brown, the silver hackle, the plain hackle, the gold hackle, the great blue dun, the great dun, the dark brown.

March.—The early bright brown, the little whirling dun, the thorn-tree fly, the whitish dun, the little black gnat, the blue dun, the little bright brown.

April.—The little dark brown, the small bright brown, the violet fly, the great whirling dun, the horse-flesh fly, the yellow dun.

May.—The green drake, the dun cow, the black May fly, the stone fly, the little yellow May fly, the camlet fly, the grey drake, the yellow palmer, the turkey fly, the black flat fly, the little dun, the

light brown, the white gnat, the cow lady, the peacock fly.

June.—From the 1st to the 24th. The stone fly, the green drake, the barn fly, the owl fly, the purple hackle, the flesh fly, the purple gold hackle, the little flesh fly, the ant fly, the peacock fly, the little black gnat, the brown gnat, the green grasshopper, the brown hackle, the dun grasshopper.

July.—The orange fly, the badger fly, the wasp fly, the little white dun, the black hackle, the black-brown dun, the shell fly.

August.—The fern fly, the late ant fly, harry-long-legs, the white hackle.

September.—The late badger, the camel brown fly.

October and the following months.—Use the same flies that were used in March.

It may be observed here, that so little can be done in fly-fishing at this part of the year, that it is not worth the inexperienced angler's while to lose his time at the river's side, unless in company with one skilled in the art.

TO MAKE PASTES, &c.

Almost every experienced angler who uses paste, has his peculiar method of making it; the following recipes, however, may be considered as the most approved, and most generally to be relied upon.

Salmon Paste.—Take one pound of salmon spawn, about September or October, boil it about fifteen minutes, beat it in a mortar until sufficiently mixed, with an ounce of salt, and a quarter of an ounce of salt-petre; carefully pick out the membrane, as you find it disengaged. When it is beaten

to a proper consistency, put it into cups or gallipots, over which tie a piece of bladder close, and it will keep many months.

Shrimp Paste is prepared precisely by the same method as salmon paste, observing to separate the solid part from the shell before it is put into the mortar.

Paste to catch Chub and Carp in the Winter.—Beat strong Cheshire cheese, mixed with cotton wool, to the consistence of paste. If it be too moist, temper it with wheaten flour; if too dry, moisten it with honey. The bait should be formed about the size and shape of an acorn.

Paste to catch Pike.—Mix four ounces of fine wheaten flour with a little cotton wool, the whites of two eggs, and a very small quantity of vermilion or red-lead. This paste should not be made above one day before it is used.

Sweet Paste for Carp, Tench, or Chub.—Take the crumb of white bread dipped in honey, and work it with the fingers in the palm of the hand until it is of a proper consistency. When honey cannot be procured, lump sugar dissolved in warm water will answer nearly as well.

Paste for Barbel.—Dip the crumb of white bread in water in which chandlers' greaves have been boiled, and knead it stiff. If a small quantity of the greaves be mixed with the bread, it will prove more enticing.

Many authors recommend oil of aniseed, and a variety of other essential oils, to scent paste with; these are communicated as secrets, and having an air of mystery, are eagerly sought after by the young angler. We have, however, tried a variety, but never had reason to suppose they were instru-

mental in taking a single fish, and believe them all to be a wasteful and ridiculous expense.

TO KEEP BAITES.

Red Worms should be kept in a bag of red cloth, with a handful of cropt fennel mixed with half as much fresh black mould, which will preserve and scour them. Keeping them in moist moss, or wrapping them in a dishcloth dipped in mutton suet, are also recommended. All other kind of worms must be kept in the leaves of the plants they feed on.

Great White Maggots may be kept in sheep's tallow. To scour these, put them in a bag with sand.

Flies may be used as they are taken; but wasps, hornets, and humble bees, when dead, should be dried in an oven, their heads dipped in sheep's blood, and then dried again, and kept in boxes for use.

Ant-Flies.—Put some earth of the hill from which they were taken into a glass bottle; and if the bottle is first rinsed with honey and water, they will live longer. Roach and dace bite greedily at these.

ADVICE REGARDING BAITES.

Fish take the baits freely which the seasons afford; when therefore you angle, beat about the bushes near you, and make use of whatever flies you find there, and imitate them with an artificial fly. Notice also what worms or insects fit for baits infest the leaves and grass, or are in the water, and if you use these you may expect good sport.

To breed Gentles.—About the end of September, bury some carrion which has young maggots in it deep in the earth, so that the frost will not kill them; and in the following March or April you will find them fit for use.

To Catch Worms.—Take a poker, and striking it in the ground to about the depth of six inches, shake the ground well, and the worms will start up out of the ground.

THE HAUNTS OF FISH.

Angle for perch in gentle streams of reasonable depth by a hollow bank.

For salmon, in large swift rivers that ebb and flow, gravelly and craggy.

For trout, in purling brooks, or rivers very swift, strong, or sandy-bottomed.

For carp and tench, in still waters, muddy ponds, and where weeds and roots of trees are.

For eels, in muddy rivers and ponds.

For bream, pike, or chub, in sandy or clayey rivers, brooks, or ponds, wherein bulrushes and flags grow.

For roach, dace, barbel, and ruff, in sandy and gravelly deep waters, shaded with trees.

For grayling or umber, in clayey marshes, or streams running swift.

For gudgeon, in small sandy or gravelly rivers: they bite best in spring.

CURIOSITIES IN ANGLING.

To catch Eels.

Put some sheep's guts or garbage in some hay, and tie it round the middle, sink it to the bottom

of the water at night, leaving one end of the cord tied to a peg of wood in the bank. Next morning, as soon as it is light, quickly draw the bundle of hay out, and you will find many eels sticking fast to the sides of the hay.

To bring fish to the place you desire.

Boil some barley in clean water; when it bursts, put liquorice, a little soft wax, and some honey to it, and beat all together in a mortar into a stiff paste; then boil about the quantity of a walnut of this paste with a quart of barley, till it becomes like glue. Lay it for ground bait, and all the fish will come to it.

Another method of collecting fish together.

Fasten corks round the mouth of a glass globe, so that it will not sink when sufficient water is put into it to weigh it down to the corks; then make a hole in the middle of a bung, and place a lighted candle in it, stick four skewers into the bung in such a manner as to keep it in the middle of the globe. This must be used in the dark, when the light shining through the water will attract the fish, which will play about the globe.

A humorous plan of catching pike.

A humorous way to catch a pike is, to take a goose, a gander, or a duck: tie a pike line under the left wing, and over the right wing, round the body, as a soldier wears his belt; turn it into a pond in which there are pike; in a short time, it is most likely that the bait will be taken, when you will see some sport between the bird and the fish, as neither will feel pleased with such a close acquaintance.

The following account of this curious mode of fishing is extracted from M'Diarmid's Scrap-book, 1820:—"Several years ago, a farmer in the immediate neighbourhood of Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire, kept a gander, which not only had a great trick of wandering himself, but also delighted in piloting forth his cackling harem to weary themselves in circumnavigating their native lake, or in straying amidst forbidden fields on the opposite shore. Wishing to check this vagrant habit, the farmer one day seized the gander, just as he was about to spring upon the pure bosom of his favourite element, and tying a large fish hook to his leg, to which was attached part of a dead frog, he suffered him to proceed upon his voyage of discovery. As had been anticipated, this bait soon caught the eye of a greedy pike, which swallowing the deadly hook, not only arrested the progress of the astonished gander, but forced him to perform half-a-dozen somersets on the surface of the water! For some time the struggle was most amusing—the fish pulling, and the bird screaming with all its might,—the one attempting to fly, and the other to swim, from the invisible enemy—the gander one moment losing, and the next regaining his centre of gravity, and casting between whiles many a rueful look at his snow-white fleet of geese and goslings, who cackled out their sympathy for their afflicted commodore. At length victory declared in favour of the feathered angler, who, bearing away for the nearest shore, landed on the smooth green grass one of the finest pikes ever caught in the Castle-loch. This adventure is said to have cured the gander of his propensity for wandering.

GENERAL RULES FOR ANGLERS.

When bottom-fishing, plumb the depth with accuracy, and with as little disturbance to the water as may be; let the plummet line remain in the water whilst you cast in your ground bait, by which time it will become softened and stretched.

Keep as far from the water as possible.

Use fine tackle, and you will sooner become skilful. If your tackle should become injured, do not let it injure your temper, but sit down and diligently repair it.

If, while you are angling, hail should fall, or the day become cold, or the wind blow strong, you must not expect much sport. In soft rain, or foggy close weather, most fish will bite. A cloudy day with light showers, after a bright night, generally proves most advantageous for angling. When a calm bright morning is succeeded by a gloomy day with a brisk wind without rain, the fish (especially the larger sort) are almost sure to feed.

It is supposed the best winds for angling are the south, west, and south-east. In hot weather, the cooler the wind the better; but in the early part of the season and in autumn, a warm wind is advantageous. When the wind blows from a cold quarter, those places which are most protected should be your resort. When the wind blows right across the water, fish with your back to the wind, because you can then not only throw your line with more certainty, but the fish also will most likely be on that side watching for the flies, &c., which may be blown from the bank. Throw your line as near the bank on which you are standing as the wind will allow you, if it be high wind.

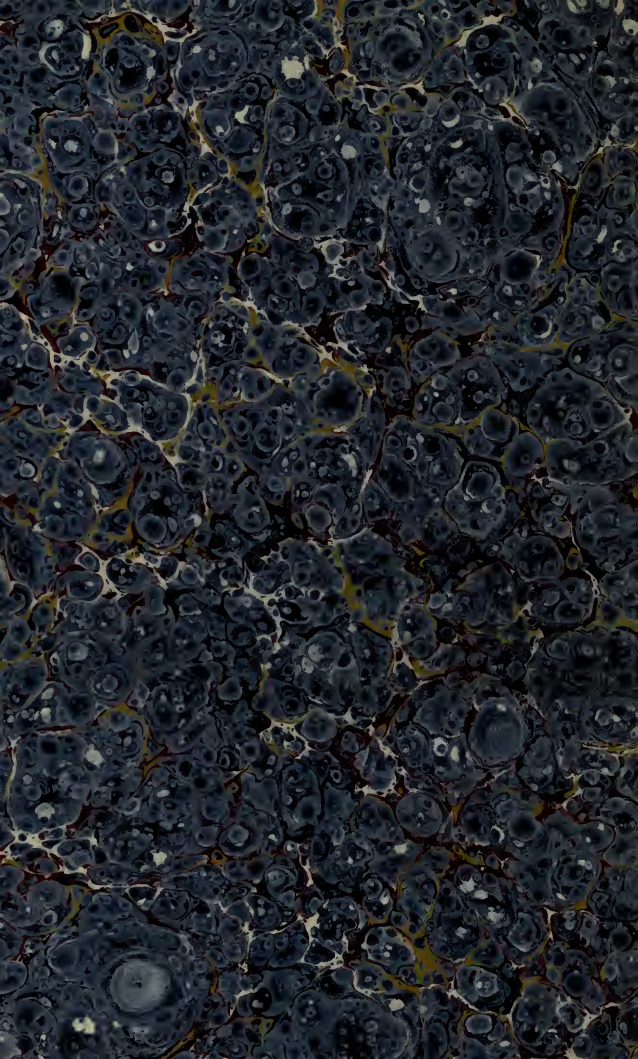
In fine summer sunshiny weather, when scarce a breath of wind is stirring, you may often see the fish basking, in clear low water, with their fins and part of their backs above the surface; they will then greedily rise at a hackle, if your foot length be fine, and you keep yourself at a sufficient distance to be unperceived. Your line for this purpose should be long; and if on hooking a fish, the others should become alarmed and swim off, just retire for a little time, and most probably they will soon come back again.

Never drink water out of rivers or ponds while in a state of perspiration; and keep your feet dry, by wearing strong boots or shoes.

Avoid all piscatory poaching; and use none of the oils or chemical preparations which are recommended by some, but which are practices quite dishonourable to the fair angler.

Before you fish in strange waters, always ascertain that they are free to the public; and if not, obtain the consent of the proprietor ere you cast your line over them, or you may involve yourself in an unpleasant predicament, as you will perceive by referring to the laws relating to angling.

If two or more persons are angling in company, there should be a distance of at least thirty yards between them.



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