

FOWLS AND FISHES.

Recent Additions to the Sportsman's Library.

THE WATERFOWL FAMILY. By L. C. Sanford, L. E. Bishop and T. S. Van Dyke. (The American Sportsman's Library. Edited by Caspar Whitney.) Illustrated. Octavo, pp. ix, 288. The Macmillan Company.

BASS, PIKE, PERCH AND OTHERS. By James Henshall, M. D. (The American Sportsman's Library. Edited by Caspar Whitney.) Illustrated. Octavo, pp. xxi, 416. The Macmillan Company.

Savage virtue is seldom proof against the deteriorating influence of civilization, and though we are saddened we are not surprised to learn that certain Canada geese, formerly wild, have gone into the business of luring their untamed fellows within range of destroying guns.



"WHERE THE BASS BITE WELL."

From "Bass, Pike, Perch and Others." The Macmillan Company.

the consideration is given, but it is probably some equivalent of the rum which corrupted our noble red men. "The Waterfowl Family" is a well illustrated book about what ducks, geese, swans, rails and shore birds, what they are, where they may be found, and when and how to shoot them.

Which reminds us of the sporting exploits of Mr. Winkle. According to the authors, the ducks and geese are in danger of extermination. In some localities, aided by the law against spring shooting, they have made a notable increase, and elsewhere they hold their own by dint of sheer cunning, but the number of gunners increases each year, and in crossing a bay a flock of five flying ducks is not infrequently fired upon every hundred yards.

It is interesting to note that the news of the truce extended to them by man in Yellowstone Park has spread abroad among the fowl, and thousands of them are breeding there "as tame in many instances as domestic ducks and geese."

Most muskallonge are taken, I am sorry to say, by trolling with a hand line of heavy braided linen, size B or C, and a spoon of very large size, as large as No. 8, which seems to be the favorite size with hand trollers. In this method of fishing the muskallonge hooks itself when he strikes a spoon.

As it is within the bounds of civilization, but as when night casts its protecting shadows over the scene they steal by thousands to the feast and revel till the first warning of the dawn alarms them with the fear of their relentless enemy. As to the geese, so wise have they become that, though immense flocks of them winter in the bays of North Carolina, comparatively few fall victims to the thousands of gunners; their wariness is proverbial, and there is little use in trying for them except with the aid of their relatives, acting as decoys.

Yet with all this abundance that covered acres of water almost with fish geese, in an hour or two it was no easy matter to get one even long before the tenderfoot, with his cheap gun, the market shooter, with his barrels of ammunition, or big-hag swine, without the excuse of the market shooter had made them far wilder. A shot with the gun from anywhere along the edge of the pond was next to impossible, and it was scarcely any better when they flew out, for a goose can climb high in the air quite rapidly for so large a bird, and he knew enough to do it.

to their minds. Viewing the thing from the standpoint of equity, there would seem to be good ground for Mr. Reed's opinion, but it is not shared by many sportsmen, and in Dr. Henshall's book the most dreadful revelations are made concerning the manner in which fish have been and are still being buccooed into biting at things that they would by no means desire did they but understand their true nature and quality. Not only is Dr. Henshall not ashamed of deceiving the inhabitants of pools, streams, lakes and seas, but he fairly glories in it, and seems to look with contempt on the men who furnish their fancy customers with genuine worms, frogs, grubs, grasshoppers, clams, minnows, etc.

He strongly disapproves of the practice of some anglers in the Middle West, who have adopted a very short rod of six feet or less for casting with a live frog or pork rind overhead, in the same way as casting a fly. The frog is projected with great accuracy, but not without a smack and splash on the water. "With such a rod most of the pleasure of play-

ing bass to a finish is lost," sighs the author. Then he continues resignedly: "Presumably the end justifies the means, but this method does not appeal to the artistic angler. If bait must be used, a small minnow lightly cast from a suitable rod is more in accordance with the eternal fitness of things and the practice and conditions of the gentle art."

Coarse tackle displeases the doctor, and his anxiety is not so much that fish should be caught as that they should be caught "artistically," which means according to the thousand and one rules that he lays down. His idea of the duty of the fish is, firstly, that it shall be good to eat; secondly, that it shall induce the fisherman's love of "play" by fighting to the last gasp, while the duty of the fisherman in the premises is to fool the fish by palming off on him an inedible "fly" or piece of hardware, and then by means of a light rod and thin line still further deceive the creature into the belief that he can escape. We fail to see where the fish gains anything from the encounter. Yet the doctor is not without ethics. This is from page 135, where the author treats of muskallonge fishing:

In trolling the revolving spoon, listening and shining is the attractive lure, and any addition of a minnow or strip of fish or pork rind or other bait, as is often resorted to by some, is entirely unnecessary. It adds nothing to the chance of hooking a fish and should never be practised by the consistent angler. He may use pork rind if he wishes, but let it be used alone, on its own merits. A spoon is bad enough in any case, but it only makes it more reprehensible and repulsive, to the angler at least, to handicap it with bait of any kind, even the bunch of feathers that usually adorns the spoon. Should be discarded, as it is of no practical use.

Most muskallonge are taken, I am sorry to say, by trolling with a hand line of heavy braided linen, size B or C, and a spoon of very large size, as large as No. 8, which seems to be the favorite size with hand trollers. In this method of fishing the muskallonge hooks itself when he strikes a spoon. It is then drawn in hand over hand, as the sailors say, "with might and muscle." And, as might be supposed, those who practise this method are "ousted in their praise of the muskallonge as the 'king of all game fishes.'" A quick pull, a strong pull and a pull all together, with the hauling aboard as soon as possible of the struggling fish, amid much splashing and four-legged, seems to be their estimation of gameness in a fish.

Alas! that such Philistines should be allowed to live. In this book are included all the game fishes that are caught east of the Rocky Mountains, except the salmon and trout, and the tarpon, jewfish and other fishes of large size, which are described in other volumes of the "Sportsman's" series. Here, however, are found the sunfish family, members of which are calico bass, small-mouth black bass, large-mouth black bass; several sorts of perch, the crappie and several sorts of sunfish; the bass family including white bass and yellow bass; the sea bass family, including muskallonge; the pike family, including muskallonge, long, and three different sorts of pickerel; the perch family, the graylings, certain salmon, as the Rocky Mountain whitefish, kingfish and lake trout, the German carp, the catfish, sheepshead, cunners, flounders, Spanish mackerel and bonito, groupers, pompanos, grunts (of half a dozen sorts), five kinds of snappers, four kinds of porpies and a dozen miscellaneous fishes, including the turbot. These are all highly respectable individuals with sounding Latin names, the flounder, for instance, being in Latin *pseudopleuronectes americanus*, while the scramp of the grouper family is in Latin *myxerops porca falcata* phoenix, and the catfish is called *Ictalurus punctatus*.

The author tells just when, where and how the different sorts of fish may be caught, and the sort of tackle and apparatus which, in his opinion, are most suitable for the purpose.

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Continued from second page.

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