

How to Carry a Gun



DURING a hunting season, if all the accidents by shooting could be gathered, it would be found that the casualty list would be greater than was that of the Spanish-American war. Most of the accidents from firearms are due to the carelessness of the men handling them, and if the aggregate of accidents of late years is smaller it is due entirely to the modern improvements made upon guns, rendering them less dangerous to the careless or inexperienced hunter. The hammerless gun with a safety lock has prevented innumerable accidents, as they can be handled with much danger, but the average amateur sportsman is not usually equipped with these up-to-date firearms. They use the old-fashioned shotgun or rifle, and in the custody of a careless or ignorant man they are as dangerous as dynamite. The experienced hunter, even with the latest pattern of the hammerless kind, always takes the precaution of drawing the charge if the piece is laid around in the camp for a few hours.

Fence climbing is often necessary, and in getting over or through these obstructions the majority of accidents occur, because of careless, awkward or ignorant handling of the fowling piece. Numerous cases have been recorded when the fatality or serious wounding of the victim has been caused by the idiotic habit of pulling the gun after him after the man has passed the fence. There is always danger of the hammer or trigger of the weapon getting mixed up with a splinter or twig, and when it does the usual result follows, the hunter or some one standing around gets the full discharge. The practice of holding the gun down on a level with the knee is just as reprehensible as the gun-pulling habit, and about as deadly. Should the man slip and pitch forward the contents of the gun, should it be discharged, will be lodged in his body. The only correct and entirely safe method of carrying a loaded gun in climbing a fence is to place it over the shoulder stock foremost, with the hammer turned downward. If this method is rigidly followed there is very little danger of an accidental discharge.

In getting in or out of a boat or a wagon with a loaded gun the utmost caution should be observed. In either case never draw the gun out with you

holding the barrel, as there is always a chance for the hammer to catch on an obstruction, with the usual result. For several reasons a gun should never be carelessly thrown down into the bottom of a wagon or across the thwarts of a skiff or boat. In handing a gun to another person it should be held well out from the body with the muzzle pointing upward and above the heads of both; in that case if the gun is accidentally discharged the contents will disappear in the air. The best way, however, is to always draw the load when the gun is being transported in boat or wagon, and when it is laid aside for the day or night it should invariably be unloaded.

When a party of hunters are hunting in a wooded country, and separated for the time, ignorance of the actual whereabouts of the other members of the party is a fruitful cause of distressing accidents. In cases of this kind each man should be careful to see that none of the other hunters are within a reasonable distance from where he discharges his piece in any direction. In walking through a wooded trail the gun should be carried on the shoulder, muzzle in the air and to the rear, with the lock close to the shoulder; in this position there is no possibility of the hammer catching on a twig or branch and causing a premature explosion. Another rule that should never be violated under any circumstances is, never point the muzzle of a gun, loaded or unloaded, intentionally or unintentionally, at any person.

In hunting partridge or deer, if the whirr of the bird is heard close to the feet, or the animal breaks cover close by, even cool-headed and experienced hunters may blaze away at the game regardless of what may be in his range of fire. In regions where moose or deer are found fatal accidents often occur when hunters are killed by accident by some other hunter, for at a distance a man may be mistaken for game in the uncertain light of the woods and underbrush.

These simple rules seem so very simple and self-evident that they appear almost useless, yet a great many men who ought to know better violate them almost daily during a season.



Muscular Rheumatism.—Although this affection is designated rheumatism, there is every reason for believing that its cause is quite different from that disease. It seems to be of the same nature as neuralgia, and might properly be so described, though it is convenient to follow the usual designation as already given.

Symptoms.—The disease is usually developed gradually. A dull pain is felt in certain muscles, gradually increasing until it becomes quite severe. The pain is usually increased upon movement, sometimes becoming convulsive and cramp-like, causing the patient to groan, or even cry aloud. These movements, and the consequent pain, may occur during sleep and awaken the patient. The muscles thus affected are somewhat tender upon pressure, but present no other signs of disease, such as swelling or redness. The constitutional condition is otherwise good, and no interference occurs in the bodily functions except such as are consequent upon the painful movements.

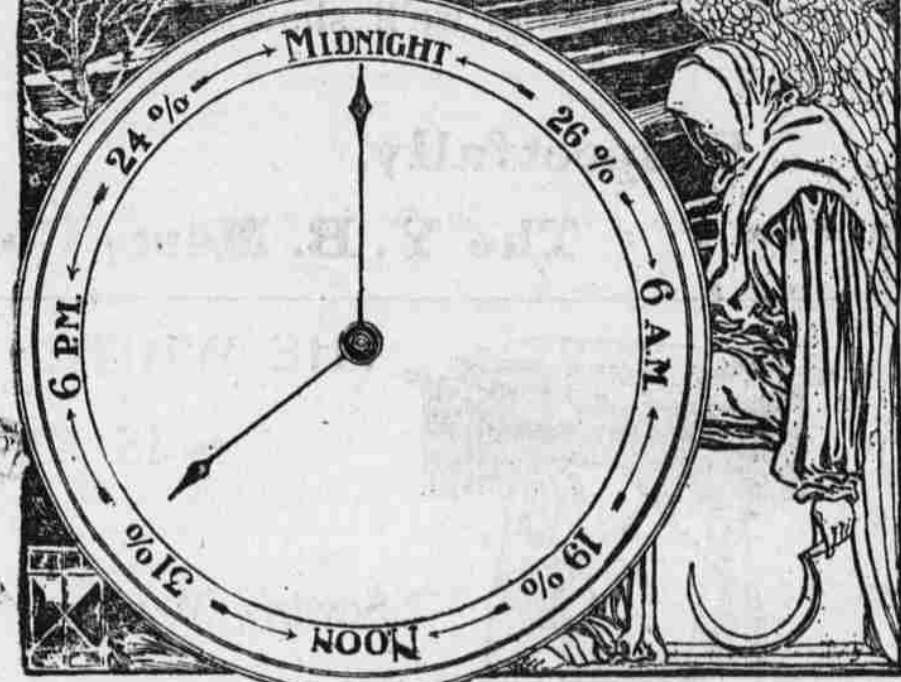
The duration of this disease may vary from a day to a week or may last, in less severe form, indefinitely. The muscles most apt to be affected are those of the forehead and of the temples. Another familiar example is in the neck, resulting in what is popularly termed "wry-neck." The pain may also be located in the muscles of the back and loins, constituting the affection known as lumbago. It occurs not infrequently in the muscles of the chest, where it may for days render deep breathing impossible without pain.

Wherever it may occur, the characteristic feature of muscular rheumatism is the occurrence of cramp-like pain, aggravated by the movement of the part. In this particular it is distinguished from neuralgia, which is a constant pain, affecting perhaps the same localities. This form of rheumatism is undoubtedly promoted by exposure to cold, and seems often to result from getting the feet wet. The treatment should consist in improving general condition by such measures as will invigorate the health. In the acute cases benefit can also be derived from the use of liniments and of gentle friction.

Sciatica.—This is a painful rheumatic affection, confined to the hip-joint and lower extremities, and affecting the large nerve (called the sciatic nerve) of the leg.

Treatment.—Apply a small blister on the spine at the bottom of the loins, and when it is removed sprinkle the surface with one-third of a grain of acetate of morphia, mixed in a little starch-powder. Or, apply to the part affected a bran poultice, to be followed twice or three times a day by an embrocation composed of one part of turpentine, and two parts of soap and opium liniment. A couple of drachms of this should be rubbed in for ten minutes at a time. Meanwhile, cleanse the bowels by a purgative, and if there is no tendency to fever, take drachm doses of carbonate of iron, three times in twenty-four hours. When the pain is very severe, accompanied with general fever, leeches should be applied, and cooling purgatives taken. It will also be advisable to employ the hot bath at a temperature of 105 degrees, and to remain in it from fifteen to twenty-five minutes. This should be repeated two or three times a week. It is often a very lingering affection, resisting all methods of treatment and discouraging patient and physician alike. In such cases keep the sick person (usually a restless man) absolutely quiet in bed by putting a splint on the sore leg and keep it there until well. At the same time it is necessary to be careful of the general health, which is apt to be below par.

The Hour of Death



A study of statistics by Charles W. Pilgrim, M. D., superintendent of the Hudson River State Hospital at Poughkeepsie, which has been published in the American Journal of Insanity, has been reprinted in pamphlet form and attracts some attention, particularly by reason of Dr. Pilgrim's citations and deductions concerning the hour of death. Dr. Pilgrim's paper is entitled "The Study of a Year's Statistics." At its conclusion he says:

"An examination of the hour of death showed that 26 per cent died between midnight and 6 a. m., 19 per cent between 6 a. m. and noon, 31 per cent between noon and 6 p. m., and 24 per cent between 6 p. m. and midnight. By adding these percentages together we find the curious fact that the deaths were evenly distributed between the hours of darkness and light, 115 patients having died between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m., and 116 between 6 a. m. and 6 p. m. Desiring to pursue this question still further, I examined the deaths for the ten preceding years, nearly 1,500 in all, and found this statement strikingly confirmed, as a change of one-half of 1 per cent would have made the deaths exactly even during the hours of day and night.

"A chart which I made of the deaths for the year—and I might also add that the statements which I am about to make were corroborated by a chart made of all the deaths during the preceding decade—showed when divided into sections of three hours each, that the highest point of the curve was reached, both for men and women, between the hours of 3 and 6 p. m., nearly 20 per cent of all the deaths having occurred between those hours. The next highest point was between the hours of 3 and 6 a. m., although there was a decided fall for both sexes for the single hour from 4 to 5, when the line went down to the lowest point reached in any hour of the twenty-four. There was also a decided fall, especially for women, between 11 and 12 in the morning.

"These figures, therefore, show that there is some reason for the popular belief that many deaths occur during the early morning hours, but they show still more plainly that the majority of those who suffer from long continued mental disease give up their lives toward the close of day. As a general rule 'death softly follows life' and suffering at the end, either physical or mental, is of rare occurrence. In fact, it is not an uncommon thing to notice a clearing up of the clouded brain a few hours before the final change. This fact was noticed by Rush a hundred years ago, and, in my opinion, too little has been written of it since. From my own observations, and from the reports of reliable nurses, many patients, especially those dying of phthisis, or after surgical operations, or from acute intercurrent diseases, or injuries which produce a profound shock upon the general system, become calm and coherent shortly before death."

A UNIQUE COMMUNITY.

Calhoun County, Ill., Has No Debt, Crime, Nor Paupers.

Calhoun County, situated on a peninsula which for fifty miles divides the waters of the Mississippi from those of the Illinois, is proud of many distinctions that make it the most unique county in all the great State of Illinois. It has no debt, no crime, no paupers and no prisoners. It has set its face against many modern improvements, and attributes its Utopian conditions largely to this fact. There are no theaters, no telegraphs, no water works, no street cars, no pavements, no factories, and no railroads. No automobile has ever penetrated to its fastnesses, and no golfer has ever made his little ball spin over its green sod. There is not a photographer within the limits of the county. Foreigners are barred out as if by a stone wall. There is not a Chinaman or an Italian on the census list. The shiny collar and the hand-organ are unknown.

Petty crime is almost unknown. Now and then the tramps or gypsies passing through the county will steal a pumpkin or a fat chicken, and if the transgressor is caught the owner of the



A MODERN UTOPIA.

stolen property is quite able to deal with him without the expense of a trial. A mild reproof, or, in severe cases, a few well-directed kicks prove salutary penalties. At the last term of the Circuit Court there were only three cases on the docket, and all of these were civil suits. In twelve years the State's Attorney has had but one crime of importance to prosecute, and that so shocked the county that it has not yet recovered. This was the trial of a 13-year-old boy for the killing of his father.

Calhoun County boasts of its red-cheeked apples and is proud of its pretty girls. Nowhere in the State are there to be found finer-looking women. The girls are of the old-time type in so far as they are good housekeepers. They know how to make currant jelly and apple butter; they can bake bread, and they are adepts at pies. While the golf stick has not yet displaced the churn-dasher and the broom, the girls have plenty of amusements. They can ride like Dianas, and they are able to

manage the most spirited teams. There are no better dancers anywhere. The Calhoun girl knows the value of clothes, and she dresses well.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

MARTINEZ CAMPOS.

He Was One of Spain's Foremost Soldiers and Statesmen.

Spain lost one of her greatest military heroes in the death recently of Marshal Arsenio Martinez Campos. For the past thirty years he has figured largely in the affairs of his country. He was nearly 66 years of age. He joined the military at an early age, and his conspicuous ability won him rapid promotion. He went through the Morocco campaign in 1859, and first served in Cuba from 1864 to 1870, the rank of brigadier general being conferred upon him for his services on the island. He was in several engagements with the Carlists, and aided greatly in placing Alfonso XII on the throne of Spain. He was afterward made captain general of the army and in 1877 was appointed commander-in-chief of the army in Cuba, where he brought the ten-years' war to a close in 1878. He again went to Cuba in 1895, but his liberal policy of treating with the Cubans resulted in his withdrawal and the substitution of the notorious Weyler. He was twice premier of Spain, had held the portfolio of war, and at the time of his death was president of the Senate.



A Summer Ice Hole.

Near Coudersport, Potter County, Pennsylvania, is a hole in the mountain from which flows freezing air. A man was sinking a well for mineral wealth. At the depth of twenty feet he was compelled to quit or freeze. About May ice begins to form in it, and continues to freeze until October. There is no ice in the hole in winter. The warmer the day, the more ice there is in the mine. The air becomes more frigid the closer one goes to the cavern. There is no water in the bottom of the shaft, but the water dripping down from its sides freezes. The ice begins to form less than a foot from the top and coats the sides of the shaft several inches thick. What causes the intense cold and where the air comes from are questions that have not been satisfactorily answered.—Philadelphia Press.

Diamonds Said to Be Alive.

A diamond is as much alive as a man. Thus declares Professor von Schroen of the Naples University. According to him the so-called inorganic bodies possess quite as much life as organic ones. He also claims to have photographs of the chief events in the life of a crystal, from its birth inward. One of the most curious of these is thus described: "The crystal meets another one from a different mother. The two strike at each other; they fight, strive and clasp with each other! It is war to the death. It is a case of the survival of the fittest. One must die. But no two crystals from the same mother ever fight, no matter when they meet." In which particular crystals seem to be superior to human beings.

Every man should be on the best of terms with his daughters for the reason that when they reach 16 they will run the house.

Scents That Make One Well.

The effort of music and of colors on the emotions is known, and they have been often used for the sake of their emotional effect by many sensitive people—notably, for instance, by Wagner, who, in accordance with the requirements of the music he was composing, clothed himself in garments of divers colors. It is not, therefore, astonishing to learn that perfumes act in just the same way as either light or sound, thus proving the close relationship which exists between the senses; for, while light makes its direct appeal to the eyes and sound to the ears, perfumes appeal only to the nostrils.

Working out this perfume theory, it has been found that the heavy scent of attar of roses, which is such a favorite with many people, has rather the effect of producing tears, while on the other hand ambergris, which nearly as many people find very disagreeable, as the power of driving away the blues and of clearing the brain, making the mental faculties quicker and yellier. Musk in very small quantities is a tonic, while citron and aloe are

soothing to the nerves, and civet produces a feeling of drowsiness, which sandal wood dissipates. Everybody knows that light and sound both owe their intrinsic properties to the rays which form them, and it is by no means improbable that things that smell also owe their power to exactly similar conditions.

A Coincidence.

It is a curious coincidence that while the old Confederate cruiser Alabama was for a long time known as "No. 200," the new battleship Alabama was numbered "290" at the builder's yard before her name was decided upon, and without any thought of the original.

How They Get Even with Him.

If a man in China doesn't pay his debts at the usual time, the New Year, his creditors carry away the door of his shop, thus permitting all the demons and evil spirits to enter.

After a boy reaches 18, the family album has to be hidden to prevent him from tearing up the pictures taken when he was a baby.

Better than Nothing.

An old lady in a Western Massachusetts town, talking over with another old lady an alleged heretical opinion of their minister, is reported to have said:

"Well, if he don't believe in everlasting punishment, what does he believe in?"

"Oh, he believes in some punishment."

"Well, how much?"

"Oh, perhaps a thousand years or so."

"Well, that's better than nothing," said the other lady.

We read a good deal about the bad influence of this church, that church and the other, but we are strongly inclined to believe that the poorest church in the world is "a good deal better than nothing."

Just as soon as a man gets his best clothes on, his wife is reminded that she wants his help in the kitchen.