

The Herring Fishery of the North Sea.

By James Blyth.

Most of us learnt in our childhood that the sole earned its wry mouth by calling rude names after the herring, which had just won the sovereignty of fish by proving that it was fastest. "The naked herring!" called out the sole. "Yah! The naked herring!" And so it was smitten by those who protect dignities.

It would be hard to prove the herring's title to his kingdom by his pace in these days. Coal-fish, dogs, porpoises, cod, all chase and catch the huge shoal of herring which make their way down the coast at periodical intervals.

But King Herring has a greater claim to the admiration of man than swimming rapidly. He is, without exception, the finest and most abundant food which either sea or land can supply. He need fear no rival when cooked before he has stiffened in death. He will take salt and smoke better than any other fish. He will "keep good" when high-dried longer than any other uncanned, savoury food, and his supply is practically inexhaustible.

THREE SEASONS.

On our east coast we have three herring seasons. The spring herring, when



ENGLISH LADIES' HOCKEY—HERTFORD V. ESSEX AT BRONBOURNE, ESSEX.

Essex intercepting a pass. Essex were victors by two goals to one.



INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY—ENGLAND V. IRELAND AT RICHMOND.

England pressing. Ireland were beaten by seven goals to three.

only the few caught in the long-shore punts close to land are worth eating, and tons of the North Sea "razor-backed fish" (as they are locally called by reason of their thinness) are thrown away or bought by inland farmers for manure.

Then come the "midsummers" of which the long-shore variety are, perhaps, the finest of all for eating fresh, though they have no roes like their Martinmas relatives. These run, I think, larger than the autumn supply.

But these two "fishings" are mere incidents in the herring industry. The number of boats engaged is small, and the quantity of fish caught insignificant. It is the Martinmas fishing that counts, and has been of prime importance to Yarmouth and Lowestoft ever since the former rose from the mouth of the Hierus Finivus a thousand years ago.

This year, however, the home fishing has been exceptionally late. Usually the herring have reached Yarmouth in their southward migration by the third week in September, and by the second week in October all the Scotch boats and local drifters which have followed the shoals down from Aberdeen (or even further north) have arrived to take up their quarters in either the Norfolk or the Suffolk port. But this season, owing, no doubt, to the mildness of the weather, the herring have delayed their arrival at "Smith's knoll"—a favourite spot for them off Yarmouth—and there are still many Scotch craft, and a few local boats, which are landing their catches at Grimsby.

TRIUMPH OF THE STEAMERS.

Twenty years ago hardly a steam

drifter was to be seen. Now the majority of the home boats are steamers, and but for the 800 Scotch luggers the sailing craft would be hopelessly outnumbered.

The steam drifter is a fine, well-built craft, between sixty and seventy tons in measurement, with a length of from 70ft. to 80ft. and a beam or width of 17ft. or 18ft. It is true that this year some monsters have come south from Scotland, some of which must be nearly 100 tons. But the figures given above are about the average.

A new boat, with her engines, nets, warps, buoys, etc., complete, is worth at least £3,000. Each boat "shoots" two miles of nets. These used to be about "twenty-score mesh," or 30ft., in depth. But of late years the Scotch style of net has come into favour, which is only sixteen or eighteen score mesh deep, with a wider mesh or finer thread or fewer "ply." All nets are now made by machinery, though they still have to be repaired by hand when they are brought in torn by weather or some mischievous craft.

"SHOOTING" THE NETS.

The nets are "shot" over the boat's "quarter," and are kept upright, like a wall, by heavy cables called "warps" fastened below, while they are floated by

Did it ever strike you?

- (1) That Breathing is the first and last function of all PHYSICAL LIFE, and therefore is the PRINCIPLE OF LIFE!
- (2) That CORRECT BREATHING is the Foundation of Health! It promotes the Circulation, assists Digestion and increases Nervous and Physical Energy. It is the only natural preventive of Adenoid growths so common among children.
- (3) That BAD BREATHING is generally the cause of ailments peculiar to Lungs and Throat (Colds, Influenza, Asthma, Bronchitis, Nasal Catarrh, &c.) That among children it is slow suicide.

DO YOU BREATHE CORRECTLY?

You are never too old or too delicate to LEARN.

Write to me AT ONCE for a Postal Course, stating particulars. All correspondence treated as strictly private.

ROYD GARLICK

Physical Culturist and Masseur

ROOM, HAMBUR WALLINGTON HOSPITAL.

ADDRESS: WELLINGTON SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL CULTURE.



A MERRY XMAS WITH THE Edison Phonograph

It will amuse and entertain the whole family from BABY to GRANDMOTHER—

EDISON XMAS RECORDS (Special 12s Post Free). DISC MACHINES & DISC RECORDS in large variety.

"FLORAL HORN" PHONOGRAPHS at 17/6 and 30/- IDEAL XMAS PRESENTS.

Catalogues, Etc., Free on request (Liberal trade discounts)
"The Talkeries" 37 Albert St., AUCKLAND and at WELLINGTON.