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WHY A FISH LAPS WHEN IT FEELS THE HOOK

You may have been a fisherman all your life and never stopped to consider why a fish leaps in air when it feels the hook. Naturally you might think that it is the frenzy of terror, born of feeling himself fast that makes him leave his element and, by a convulsive movement of his body, strive to shake the deadly hook from his jaw, and in this you would be right, but only in a measure so.

A fish, particularly those of the game variety, such as the trout and bass, are never beaten until they are drawn breathless and spent on the grass or into the landing net, and even then they will fight until the merciful angler administers the quietus. Surprise would be the better qualification of the feeling a fish experiences when first he feels the sharp bite of the hook; terror later, perhaps in his second or third rush.

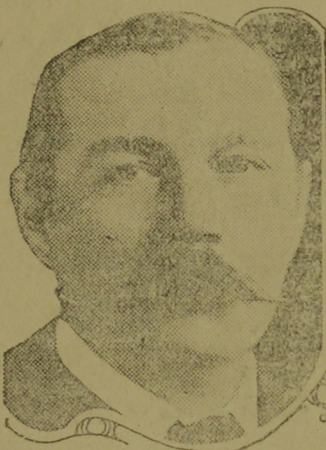
Very often a fish will leap, when feeding, if he, by mistake, grasps something which tastes unpalatable to him; or he will leap in quest of some juicy morsel, or out of chagrin if he misses the fat leader of a minnow shoal. Very often, too, he will leap out of pure exuberance of spirits, for all fish love play.

When you strike a bass and he leaps, it is because he has made, according to fish reasoning, a little mistake. He hasn't the slightest doubt in the world but that he can throw the unwelcome mouthful from him by a twist of his muscular body and a shake of his head. Then, when he feels his native element again and the stinging thing which he has grasped refuses to be dislodged, anger takes possession of him. He will run away from it, he tells himself, and then comes his first mad run, called by anglers "the run."

It is when you snub your reel and he feels the force of an hitherto unknown resisting element that terror wakes within him, and the fight flares up in him, and he proceeds to give you battle which those amongst us who have fished with light tackle consider the best of sport.

Perhaps the great terror does not find him until you have reeled him close in beside your boat and he catches a glimpse of you from his opal eyes. Then indeed is it terror and the rush which follows makes all previous ones seem trivial indeed. It is a critical moment for both angler and fish, this swift, frenzied rush for freedom through the blue-green depths where dangerous snags and twisted kelp-roots reinforce the fish's chance of escape.

It is in this last rush that the hooked fish entirely loses his head; it is this last rush where the angler must certainly keep his if he is to win the battle.—Archie P. McKishnie.



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
Having purchased a summer home in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains the creator of "Sherlock Holmes" intends spending a portion of each year in Canada.

Coloring Live Trees

We have known for some time that plain horsehair can masquerade as the costly aigrette, but it has remained for the chemist to do a more daring deed. He can transform a cotton wood tree into Circassian walnut or something of that sort. The milliner does not cause horses to grow plumes on their dignified persons, but the chemist injects dye solution into the tree, and lo! the character of its wood changes. The amount of liquid soot trees absorb is astonishing. One Scotch fir is reported to have had a capacity for three gallons in two days, at which time its appetite was sated. Now that trees have taken to drinking, it is hard to say what deception the future may show in the way of wood.

The wise parent will not allow his small child any candy, although a certain amount of sweets is wholesome and necessary. Good loaf sugar and fruits will supply this demand.

Compass in Watch

Within the head of the crown of a new stem-winding watch there is inserted a mariner's compass.



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MARVELOUS INSTINCT OF WILD ANIMALS

New Method of Study and Experiment
Used by Nature Students

The French possess a curious institution in the form of an institute of zoological psychology established in a farm near Paris. This station comprises meadows and barnyards, a pond stocked with fish. Then, too, there are spacious buildings, including modern stables, a riding school, stalls for isolating animals under special observation, an aquarium and a laboratory. A dove-cote is placed upon the roof of the main building.

As evidencing the desire of the French naturalists to study the habits of living creatures under natural conditions, it may be mentioned that a complete diving apparatus has been provided in which observers may descend to the bottom of the pond. There they may remain for hours until the fish become accustomed to their presence, and follow their natural impulses in playing and feeding. The under-water student thus is enabled to note their habits at first hand.

The other extreme of observation is the construction of sheltered platforms in the branches of trees, where students sit throughout the night armed with electric flashlights to watch the doings of owls, bats and nocturnal insects.

It is reported by a scientist that an important conclusion reached by the students is that some animals possess a special sense whereby they can detect the presence of water even though they cannot see it. For instance with sheep and cattle when being driven across country.

In a place where the presence of water was wholly unexpected the Australian noted some curious facts. The leading animals suddenly would lift their heads and draw long breaths. Then they would abandon the beaten tracks and start running through the bush. Sometimes they would run for a mile and a half to two miles and could not be stopped by the drivers, their course invariably leading to a pond or spring hitherto unknown.

In France the experiments were made on a water rat. First its eyes were blinded by a bandage and then it was placed on a turntable, which was whirled round until all sense of direction must have been obliterated. Upon being released, without a moment's hesitation, it started directly for the pond, several hundred yards distant.

Frogs and toads were taken to a distance of three or four miles from water and liberated. It seemed to take them only a short time to find the water. One old blind toad showed the instinct in the same degree as the others.

Among the subjects of investigation is the sight of birds and the homing instincts of the carrier pigeon. Many members of the institution are inclined to consider this a phenomenon of far sight. They have been taken by triangulation the height to which birds soar and from that figure on the radius of vision they arrive.

Mr. Frank McGibbon returned on Saturday from the Canadian West, where he was engaged in forestry work during the summer months. He will resume his studies at the University of New Brunswick.

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