

(4) The superior cardiac from the superior and middle cervical ganglia gives branches to the thyroid gland. (5) The cervical ganglia are all intimately connected together. The bullet in its course, therefore, could hardly escape injuring the left inferior cervical ganglion, and perhaps the middle cervical, and certainly a great many of the nervous connections of the left lobe of the thyroid body.

There is, of course, the difficulty that the thyroid gland is a double gland, and there is no reason that the ganglia on the right side should not be quite capable of doing their work. However, I think that it is quite within the realm of possibility that the injury to the nervous supply of the left half of the gland caused such a diminution of, or other alteration in, the output of the material from the gland—which appears to be necessary for the proper assimilation of food by the body—that personally I feel that the patient should have the benefit of the doubt (for in his case it may mean a larger pension), and I therefore give it as my opinion that the myxœdema was due directly to the injury to the nerve supply of the thyroid gland.

I insert illustrations showing the position of the scars and direction taken by the bullet.

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## Travel.

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### TRAVEL AND SPORT IN TEXAS, U.S.A.

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LEAVING Liverpool on August 14th, 1906, on board the s.s. "Irak," Gulf Transport Line, I arrived at Galveston, Texas, in twenty days, and returned on board the same ship, arriving at Liverpool October 16th, which gave me three weeks' Tarpon fishing. There are several other ways, viz., *via* New York, thence by the Mallory Steamship Line, leaving that place every Wednesday and Saturday, taking about six days; or by rail to Galveston, which is the best route if time is limited. The Harrison and Leyland Lines also go direct from Liverpool to Galveston, but all these lines are dependent on cotton and other freights, so that they have not definite sailing days. The Mallory steamers leave Galveston for New York every Wednesday and Saturday. From Galveston the Santa Fe Railway takes one to Rockport *via* Heuston, Kennedy and Gregory; there is a steamer from Rockport to Tarpon, Mustang Island, the fishing place. There is, I believe, a new and more direct

line from Galveston to Tarpon in course of construction. The cheapest way to reach Galveston from Liverpool is by the direct steamers.

The Tarpon, *Megalops thrissoides*, or, in America, *Tarpon atlanticus* (Curier and Val), differs very little from the East Indian *Megalops cyprinoides*; they both belong to the natural order *Elopidæ*; they are very closely allied to the herring family (*Clupeoidæ*). The American local names of the Tarpon are silver king, savanilla and grand ecaillé, or big scale.

In America the Tarpon is found along the Atlantic coast from Long Island to Brazil, but not in sufficient quantities north of Florida or the St. John's River to assure sport; in the waters above the southern part of the peninsula, or on both sides, it is very common, but not plentiful, or on the extreme outer reef from Key West to Loggerhead. On the Florida coast the best known localities for them are from St. John's to Byscayeme, Indian River, Lake Worth and Fort Meyer; other localities are Captiva Pass, Boca Grand Pass, Naples, Pine Island and Homassossa. Naval officers have told me that the Tarpon is caught by the natives at Sierra Leone.

The Tarpon is a magnificent fish, and is probably pelagic, moving north over the vast area of the Gulf of Mexico; one pronounced migration is along the coast from Mexico, and so reaching Louisiana, the other possibly passing up the Windward Islands of the West Indies, so reaching Key West, and thence up the Atlantic Coast of America; around Cuba, Jamaica and other islands some Tarpon are found, but they are more plentiful in summer at the Florida points; "schools" have also been seen all the winter between Key West and Cape Florida.

They appear in February, increasing in numbers in March, April and May. The Tarpon arrives at Tarpon, Mustang Island, lat. 27° 50' north, early in March, coming from the south, and have all left for the south again by November 16th, after which the "Tampico" (Mexico) season begins. From the middle of April to the middle of May (Holder) they do not appear to take any bait; probably this is the spawning season, which is common to many fish; an odd one may do so, as there is always fish in spawn up to August 15th.

The best fishing season for Tarpon is June and July, but in these months the sharks are so numerous that they take five out of every six Tarpon hooked; then October up to November 15th, which months have the following advantages, viz., it is much cooler,

the sharks are absent, and there are fewer people staying at the inn. The boatmen say the fish fight best in October and November, having recovered from the effects of spawning, but they are magnificent sport at all times. I have heard of Tarpon being in the Orange Walk River, British Honduras, when I was stationed there, which was 70 miles from its mouth.

The Tarpon attains a length of 7 or 8 feet, and a weight of 400 lbs. (Holder). Everman states that one of 383 lbs. was taken on a harpoon. The record on a rod and line is about 300 lbs. There is a useful formula for arriving at the weight of a Tarpon, which is, multiply the length in inches by the maximum girth in inches, squared, divided by 800; this will give the weight in pounds.

Much valuable information can be obtained from a book, "The Big Game Fishes of the United States," by Mr. Charles F. Holder (American Sportsman's Library, edited by Caspar Whitney, New York: The MacMillan Co.; London: MacMillan and Co., 1903; through Messrs. Farlow and Co., fishing tackle makers, the Strand; or through the Army and Navy Stores).

Arriving at the village of Tarpon from Rockport by the "Dolly Gray" on September 6th, I started on this very fascinating sport—Tarpon fishing. That morning I essayed my luck, and was rewarded by a leaping shark, about 50 lbs. I had no idea that this fish was such an excellent fighter; taking 80 yards of line with a rush, up he went into the air, and gave me twenty minutes of sharp, hard fighting. Next day I was in partial luck and realised what a Tarpon was. In the morning I got into my first Tarpon: with a whirr, out flew the line, and up into the air went the fish, a bar of silver; with the thumb break on there was no checking his rush; again he went up into the air, shaking his head, and the wire parted. I was fishing with No. 12 nickel-plated piano wire, which is light for Tarpon fishing, being the size used for mackerel, as I always like to give the fish a chance. Some people never use wire, and later on I will discuss its advantages and disadvantages. In the evening I hooked and played another Tarpon, about 6 feet long, and nearly had him played out, when suddenly the fin of a shark appeared, and he swallowed the Tarpon whole. I should judge the shark's length to have been about 18 feet. One fascination of Tarpon fishing is one never knows what one will get on one's hook; jack fish (*Caranax hippos*) seize the bait, which may be suddenly exchanged for a shark, as happened to me: I had just hooked a jack, when the feeling was changed to that of a shark

of great weight and power: he towed the skiff about two miles, taking line from me steadily; in return I pumped him, and being fatigued by the ordeal I handed the rod to the boatman; he ultimately broke the hook in the fish. As far as I could judge his length was about 10 feet; but it was dead and hard work. In all I killed fourteen Tarpons in three weeks; there were only two or three days on which I did not have a Tarpon. Immediately one is hooked it jumps into the air. My best Tarpon was 6 feet 5 inches



THE TARPON.

in length and weighed 108 lbs. Some days I landed two fish; up to the last two days I landed nearly half the fish I hooked; on the day before I left I hooked five Tarpons and lost all, and on the last I hooked and lost twelve of them.

All the Tarpons I hooked fought with a true sporting instinct, running over 200 yards of line, and jumping on an average 12 feet into the air, in some cases shaking their heads till they got rid of

the hook ; nothing can be done for this. Some sportsmen advocate a light line and never dropping the point of the rod. I tried this against my conviction, with the result that the fish broke the line. I afterwards played them as I would a salmon, viz., dropping the point of my rod when they jumped, and got no more broken lines.

The advantages of wire are that it is finer than moose hide or line and is not so likely to be seen ; its disadvantage is that if a shark gets on he cannot bite the wire as he can moose hide or line, and so one is ridded of a pest. I believe the latter is used in Florida in still fishing (bottom fishing). The wire I used as mentioned before was No. 12, but No. 15 would be better, being a shade thicker.

Some sportsmen use leads in trolling, twenty-three to the pound, such as Archer Sardine, but I prefer fishing without them.

A short stiff rod is the one used, of split cane, greenhart, noib or bethabarar wood,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, so as to give the fish a chance. There is a doubt if a whippy rod is of any use, the Tarpon's mouth being hard and bony. A great deal of resistance is necessary to implant the hook into his mouth. The wooden rods cost 15 dols. in the States ; the cane ones in London £3 10s. at Carter and Co., St. Johns Street, and Rosebery Avenue. *Line*.—No. 15 or 18, of standard Irish linen, made by Mills, of New York, tested to pull 30 to 36 lbs., is strong enough for a skilled angler. For Jew fish and other heavier fish, No. 24, tested to pull 48 lbs. The Americans seem to make these lines best. They should not be dressed. *Hooks*.—A special and large hook is used—a 10/o Limerick size, a Van Vleek, or an Oshaughnessy. *Swivels*.—A large box special swivel is the best. *Winch*.—A large multiplying winch to hold a minimum of 200 yards of line, with a patent brake, called the Ravebeth, price 5 dols., made by Messrs. Meiselbach Brothers, Newark, New Jersey, is excellent. Some people who have a powerful thumb use a brake of moose hide. The winches cost 15 dols. to 75 dols. in the States. *Artificial baits*.—A spoon of large size might be useful when bait is scarce. *Clothes*.—The maximum temperature in the summer in the shade is 90° F. to 100° F. ; in September 80° F. to 90° F. ; in November, when the "northers" blow, the temperature sinks very rapidly. *Banks*.—The First National Bank of Galveston has a branch at Rockfort, 15 miles from the Tarpon Inn. *Other fishes*.—There is a great variety of fish, from the Jew fish, which attains a length of 7 feet 3 inches long, with a girth of 5 feet 9 inches, to the Spanish mackerel, and one never knows what one will get on the hook.

*Where to get tackle.*—Tarpon tackle can be got in England, but as they know more about the fishing in the States, it is best to get it there. Messrs. Mills and Sons, 21, Park Place, New York; E. Van Hoffe, 95 to 97, Fuller Street, New York, and Mr. Cotter, Tarpon Inn, Mustang Island, Texas, sell tackle. At home, Messrs. Farlow; Army and Navy Stores; Messrs. Little and Sons; and Messrs. Carter and Co., all sell tackle; but at the Tarpon Inn it can be hired for 75 cents. a day.

*Record Catch.*—The record catch of Tarpon in one day is twenty-four.

*Sunburnt Lips.*—A solution of tannin in alcohol is very useful.

*Shooting.*—From the middle of October one has the advantage of snipe, duck and quail shooting, as well as Tarpon fishing.

*The village of Tarpon* is the best spot for fishing, as there are skilled fishermen; but they are found at Mission Bay and Corpus Christi, so that if one gets tired of fishing for Tarpon at one place they can get a change of scenery.

*Expenses.*—I was fortunate to meet with hospitality, and people put me up, so that my expenses were much reduced. The fare from Liverpool, return, is £29 10s. per Gulf Transport Company, 17, Water Street. Railway fare from Galveston to Rockport, return, 11 dols. Sleeper each way, optional, 2 dols. Express to station (which is the charge for transporting baggage from each point), 1 dol. Motor boat, Rockport to Tarpon, return, 2 dols. Boatmen, per day, including boat, 2.50 dols. Hotel, per diem, (14 dols. per week), 2.50 dols. Whiskey rye, per bottle, 1.50 dols. Scotch, Buchanan, White Seal, 2 dols. Breakfast on railway, 50 cents. Dinner on railway, 50 cents.

Two month's leave would give three weeks' fishing going *via* Liverpool and Galveston; *via* New York about a week more.

The exchange is about 4.82 dols. to 4.85 dols. to the sovereign. The cost of two month's leave would be about £85, exclusive of buying the tackle and rods.

Tarpon fishing is a most fascinating sport, and can be done at the time of the year when salmon fishing is out of season, if desired.