

CHAPTER V

COMBINATION OF CUT AND GUARD

You are now approaching a stage where you might be initiated into the rather more complex combination of cuts and guards. So far we have combined all cuts with FRONT GUARD in which without exception we finish up—the reason has already been explained (to protect head and hand). We now go a step further and combine our cuts with our CROSS GUARD (Chapter 2, Fig. 4) and we shall now see how this is employed.

ON GUARD.—Get into FRONT GUARD as imaginary opponent strikes at you, or you may ask your friend to do so, but deal lightly with him! Get into CROSS GUARD, as described, by swinging your hand over to left of head with an upward tendency, body sideways, stick well sloping back and hand away from head out of danger. Descending blow will glance off stick, and opponent will be exposed to an immediate reply to his head, face or neck by a turn of your wrist (Figs. 17, 18). To add force to blow swing your whole body to right at the same time as you cut. This is a terrific cut so it is advisable to practice on an imaginary opponent!

We shall now carry this combination a bit further by supposing that you have *two* opponents to deal with. Both are rushing in at you and time is precious. Take No. 1, the nearest one to you, with a CUT LEFT as you now know how to carry out, and instead of wasting precious time in getting into FRONT GUARD, finish up your cut in a CROSS GUARD after you have dealt with opponent No. 1. Very well, employ *two* CUTS LEFT, one for each opponent, in quick succession without coming into any guard in between. After completing your second cut, get into CROSS GUARD and travel back along the same track with your terrific cut, and if they are still in the way they will catch it. You are thereby making doubly sure of getting in some cut or other.

This is the method to practice what we have just discussed.

FORMING SQUARE.—Give it a name! Imagine you are attacked. Carry out two continuous sharp cuts— CUT LEFT—one in front of you, the second half left. Finish up your second cut in CROSS GUARD. Now imagine an opponent on the right still remaining to be dealt with. Cut right from CROSS GUARD and swinging body round with cut, let your right arm go out to fullest extent with your cut to right from CROSS GUARD. This is excellent practice and makes for free and easy play with your stick. Do not forget to *employ your wrist* with your cuts. Practise delivering three cuts in quick succession, finishing up in CROSS GUARD and then CUT RIGHT from your CROSS GUARD position. Do not forget to employ the wrist and glancing blow. Make your stick buzz round—it is surprising the pace you can get into your cuts.

You will by now be realising your formidable proportions so you will be taken a step still further and shown something else which makes for free and easy play with your stick, and may be decidedly useful if you are cramped for space such as in a room, railway carriage, mob, or even in the street, to deal with a single opponent who is too close to you to be dealt with otherwise.

We will call this CLEARING PRACTICE. ON GUARD (FRONT GUARD). Cut down at opponent's body (as already pointed out: we adopt a start being made from FRONT GUARD to simplify understanding of the method). Let your cut

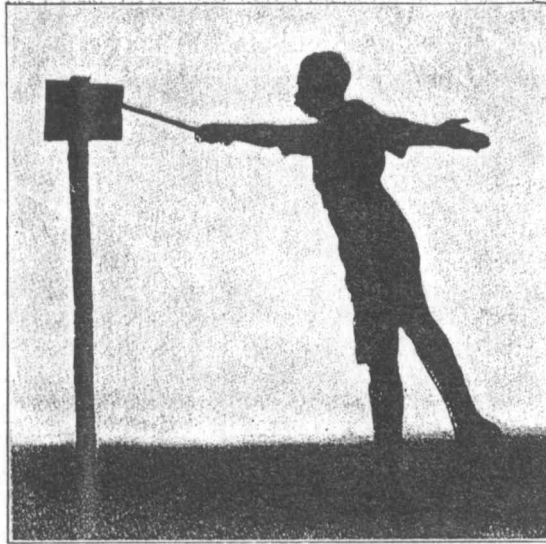


FIG. 27.



FIG. 28.



FIG. 29.



FIG. 30.

finish up in rear of body, stick parallel to ground and under left arm (Fig. 20). Your body has swung round with the force of your cut. Left arm up ready for use. From this position swing your body round from waist and let your cut be of a glancing nature, finishing up parallel to ground and under level of shoulder, elbow close to side (Fig. 21). Crouch to it. From this position swing body left from waist back into first position (Fig. 20). Back again once more to position (Fig. 21). You have now completed four cuts at opponent's body. Perform practice slowly at first. Increase speed gradually. After a little practice you will be able to go through the four cuts without a pause between the cuts, and there will be an unbroken hum of the stick throughout the four cuts. Get your shoulder round with a jerk. No wrist work comes in here. *Your shoulder is the motive power.* These are very powerful cuts. You will appreciate this method for close quarter work if you stand in a doorway and see how your cuts take effect on the sides of the doorway. Let there be a pull behind your cuts and bring the shoulder round with a jerk. Crouch to it. To appreciate this method of cutting more fully, stand close to a person with your hand about level with your waist and *slowly* revolve right, with your stick parallel to ground; you will realise you hit him in the middle, a tender spot, and you can appreciate the effect your blow would have if you jerked round your shoulder in real earnest.

Do not forget, cut to left finishing up below left arm, stick parallel to ground, and cut to right finishing up below level of shoulder. Make your stick hum and get a pull behind it. Do not flick stick round with wrist otherwise it won't come round in a tight place. Pull it round with your shoulder.

Practice this method also on the move. You may have to cut your way out of a mob. Cut to left as the right foot advances so as to get the whole swing of the body behind the blow. Cut to right as the left foot advances and so on with a rhythmical swing of the body. It all makes for free and easy play with your stick. Practise! You will then be able to form an estimate of the efficiency of your stick when it is properly handled.