

CHAPTER XI

HOW TO DEAL WITH AN OPPONENT UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

So far we have presumed our opponent to be armed with a stick or cudgel, the weapon he is most likely to employ. Having now at your disposal a whole battery of methods to bring to your aid in self-defence, you can realise that, provided you are given warning, an opponent armed, for instance, with a knife, would be at the mercy of your powerful UPPER CUTS, HEAD CUTS, etc., FLICKS, FLIPS, and the host of other methods you have now acquired a knowledge of. The odds would be all on your side. Similarly, the gentleman who draws a revolver within reach of you could also be very speedily despatched before he realised what you were about.

Take the case of an opponent rushing in at you who has arrived too close before you are able to employ your more open methods. Grasping the stick in both hands, as in Fig. 30, you can receive him with the point of your stick at his throat or get down to the employment of your CLEARING PRACTICE method.

You may be driven to take up your stand with your back to a wall. In this position you are deprived of the employment of your cuts, as your stick cannot go back. Here you will appreciate your FLICKS and FLIPS above all other methods. Should you find yourself in such a position lunge out at your nearest opponents with a FLICK or FLIP; this enables you to leave your cramped position against the wall, and you can get in your cuts and guards in rapid succession as you did in the chapter on ACTIVE STICK PLAY, before you again get your back to the wall for protection to await another opportunity for a sally forward. A knowledge of how to act under such circumstances does at least afford one a fighting chance of coming out of a tight corner.

If driven to employ your stick in self-defence in a mob, room, railway carriage or similar tight corner where you have not much elbow room, get down into the CLEARING PRACTICE method and use your shoulder as you have been told how to do. From this position your FLICKS and FLIPS can be very speedily delivered all round you, if you make active use of your feet. Very effective play can be made by grasping stick in both hands, and jabbing upwards with both ends, left and right, using the shoulder to its best advantage. The moral effect of one or two FLICKS or FLIPS, well delivered, is considerable, and may make a mob get back from you to think, and your chance of escape lies in seizing such an opportunity.

The SAND BAGGER or other opponent attacking from behind, can, if his approach is heard, be met by a swinging cut to the rear as you face about by the CLEARING PRACTICE method, and if you fail to get in, a FLICK, FLIP or throat JAB would automatically come to your rescue.

The attack by a dog would be met by the UPPER CUT from a CIRCLING GUARD. This covers the portion of one's person most liable to attack by this species of opponent. The average man, knowing no better, raises his stick to strike, thereby exposing the parts the dog is making for. This brings to mind an incident, small in itself, but quite sufficient to demonstrate the great benefit one derives from a knowledge of how to employ a Walking Stick efficiently in self-defence. The writer one day saw a shepherd fast asleep, and for a mild joke touched him on the nose with his stick. Like a flash the shepherd's dog, hitherto unseen, flew in for a nip. The stick thereupon travelled in an UPPER CUT from master's nose straight to the snout of his faithful companion, and the attack was cut short. Take a cue from this and get familiar with the methods of employing your stick effectively. In an emergency you will do the right thing auto-

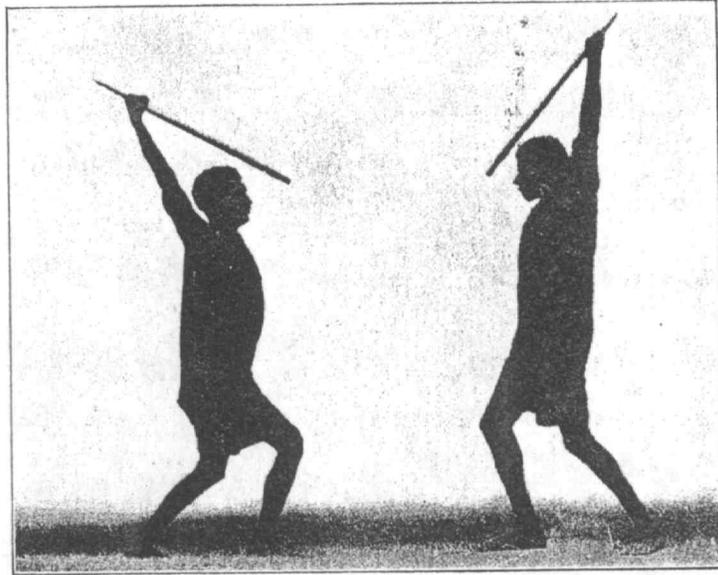


FIG. 53.



FIG. 54.

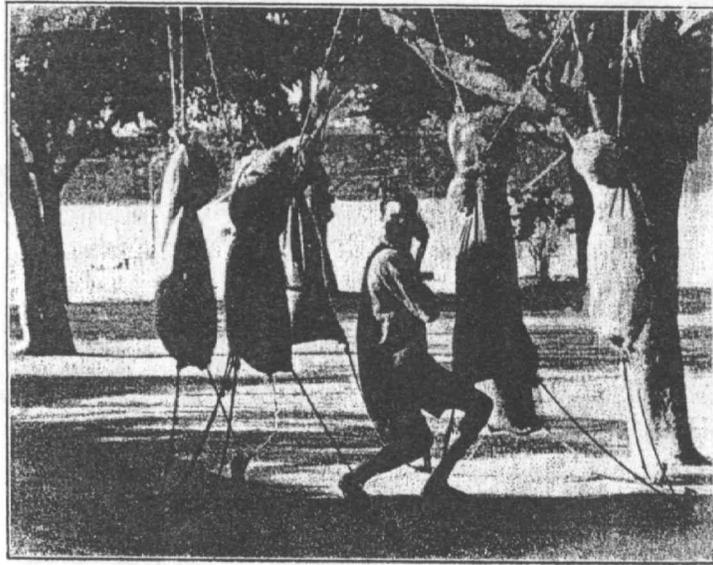


FIG. 55.

matically and your stick may prove so useful on occasions. Failing one method of taking effect, you have so many others to fall back on. The methods already demonstrated are by no means the limit of the possibilities of employing your stick. they merely give you the means of employment under certain stated circumstances. As Napoleon said: "No genius suddenly or secretly reveals to me what I should do under circumstances which are to others unexpected; it is reflection and meditation beforehand." So take a leaf out of his book and be prepared for circumstances which will show an opponent that you have not been behindhand in acquiring a knowledge of how to defend your person.

Before we pass on to the next chapter, which deals with the training of organised bodies, and, therefore, is beyond the range of the average person, it would be well to summarise here a few final reminders:—

1. Cultivate speed in all methods.
2. Get into all guards like a flash; similarly deliver all Cuts.
3. Do not forget to acquire the habit of guard-ing head and hand, after every cut cover head and hand with HEAD GUARD in case opponent may have guarded your cut and replied to your head. Sped is the essence of this system of self-defence, so cultivate it.
4. Employ your SURPRISE PACKETS as speedily as you can.
5. Failing the opportunity of employing an efficient guard, jump into an opponent; you will thus minimise the force of the blow aimed at you, and either end of your stick is bound to get home before you part company, for you know the "Soft Spots" and the method of getting there very much better than he is possibly aware of.
6. Last, but by no means least, you must above all things impress on your opponent from the start your formidable qualifications; and in all probability you will perforce be obliged to employ, if you catch him, a means you have hitherto not been instructed in—your boot!