



SEPTEMBER.

GOLFING.

GOLFING is played with a club and ball. The club is from three to four feet long, according to the height and length of arm of the player. It is seen curved and massive towards the head, to give it scope, weight, and strength. This head, or knob, is formed, for strength, from some very tough wood, as beech; and as it curves and proceeds upwards, it is planed off, so as to adapt itself to the handle, to which it is very firmly glued, and tightly corded down. A want of due attention to these particulars, in the manufacturing it, will render the head liable to split and fly off by either a very hard or indirect stroke. The face of the club is farther secured by a piece of hard bone, and occasionally of ivory, at least half an inch thick. It is also loaded with from four to six ounces of lead, according to the will of the player. The handle is usually bound with cord, list, or velvet, at the pleasure of the owner. It is, however, to be remembered, that the form of the club, the materials of which it is made, and the numbers taken to the golfing ground, vary considerably, according to circumstances and to the habits of the players, the attendant caddy or caddy having usually many varieties to suit every peculiarity under which the ball may be placed; for, in many clubs, it can never be touched by the hand until holed.

The golf ball is about the size of an egg, and is made very firm. It is composed of stout leather, which, having been previously soaked in boiling water, allows of its being first very firmly sewed, and then turned inside out, leaving a small opening only by which it is very forcibly stuffed with feathers. The leather being yet wet, it contracts into a ball of the dimensions stated, but nearly as circular as that used in the game of cricket. It is subsequently painted over with several coats of white paint, in doing which it is requisite that the white lead used should be pure, and exceedingly well ground down; as well as that each coat laid on should become perfectly dry and hard before another is applied. The game is played by two or more persons, so that there be an equal number on each side; but only two balls are used, one belonging to each party, each party also striking in turn; but if the last striker does not drive his ball so far on as that of his opponent, one of his party must then strike one, or perhaps two, more; and the game is thus marked, by calling out one, two, or three more, as the case may be. If more than two are playing, the same person does not strike twice in succession; a miss is counted one. The party who puts the ball into the hole at the fewest strokes wins the game.

The grounds used for this sport vary in different parts of Scotland. Some are nearly square, in which case a hole is made at each corner; but if it be irregular in figure, it is not uncommon to place one at each angle, so that the party still traverse the whole surface, and finish at the spot from whence he started; a quarter of a mile, more or less, being usually allowed between each hole. Besides the club described, as already stated, there are others, usually carried by an attendant for each party. These are called, by way of distinction, *putters*, of which, however, there are several sorts; one being short, stiff

and heavy, similar in figure, but larger in the head, for making a steady and direct stroke when near the hole. Another, formed of iron instead of wood, is used for making a hit at a ball when very unfavourably placed; as in a rut, where the common club would be in danger of breaking. When a ball falls into a hole or rut, from which it is impossible to strike it out, the party is allowed, by a special agreement in some clubs, to take it out with his hand, and throw it up in a line with the spot, which is accounted as one, and he then strikes from where it chanced to rest; but, as already observed, this indulgence does not extend to every golfing society.

PARTRIDGE SHOOTING.

PARTRIDGE-SHOOTING, the reader need scarcely be told, commences with the present month, and that literally; for, as Colonel Hawker observes, "Most young sportsmen, and many old ones, fancy that *nothing great* can be done on the first day, without they go out as soon as they can see to distinguish a bird from a dog." This, for several reasons, the Colonel considers to be the very worst method that can be adopted; and much game as the Colonel has seen killed in a September day, he does not recollect one solitary instance of anything extraordinary being done very early in the morning, though many persons *talk* of killing ten and even twenty brace before breakfast. Colonel Hawker briefly states the great object in partridge shooting is, first to have good markers judiciously placed, and then to disperse the birds; the best way to do which, is to head your dogs, by taking an extensive circle. The second is, to make no more noise than what cannot absolutely be avoided, by doing as much by signal and whistling, and as little by hallooing, as possible. Thirdly, go first on hills to find, and drive down from them the birds, and then in vales to kill them. Fourthly, when distressed for partridges in a scarce country; at the end of the season, take a horse, and gallop from one turnip-field to another, instead of regularly slaving after inaccessible coverts. After a storm, as soon as the ground is dry, or the next day, birds will lie in a calm; and, after a calm, they will lie in windy weather. Birds are frequently as much on the listen as on the watch; and this is why, towards the end of the season, we sometimes do best in boisterous weather. — *Instructions to Young Sportsmen*, 9th Edit., 1844.

A gamekeeper of Mr. D. Grosvenor, in Dorsetshire, hearing a partridge utter a cry of distress, was attracted by the sound into a piece of oats, when the bird ran round him very much agitated; upon his looking among the corn, he saw a large snake in the midst of the infant brood, which he killed; and perceiving the body of the reptile considerably distended, he opened the belly, when, to his astonishment, two young partridges ran from their horrid prison, and joined their mother; two others were found in the snake's stomach quite dead.

ANGLING.

ROACH, gudgeons, dace, chub, eels, tench, bleak, minnows, barbel, bream, ruffe, pike, trout, perch, and grayling, are in season.