

THE FISHING FEVER¹

The first symptoms of the fishing fever appear about the end of March of the first week or two in April whenever the clouds clear away for a few days and the sun makes the buds break. His pulse beats faster and his temperature is likely to run higher by the last of April or the first of May.

This intermittent fever seems to be more virulent in the blood of the light-rod fly artist than the sluggish bait fisherman. There is a class of winter fishermen, slow and thick blooded, who become immune by the constant application of the vile-smelling oil of the salmon egg. But who wants to use a medicine that is worse than the malady!

As age creeps upon us all, it is not fitting that we speak harshly of him who sits quietly above the still water and drops in his bait contently, for in his younger days he may have had innumerable attacks before he got beyond the danger line. Yet in his placidity, he may inoculate others with the unquenchable fever.

Spring comes unfailingly. If one is ever to taste at the fountain of perpetual youth, he will have to forget his business cares and try whipping the clear streams where the rapids flash. He must feel his mind grow keen for the sport. He must feel his heart pound heavier as the line buzzes through the guides.