

## CHAPTER VI

### EVERY GUARD LAYS AN OPPONENT OPEN TO A QUICK REPLY

You will now be able to appreciate the efficiency of your guards and the position in which they place you to the disadvantage of your opponent. You have already seen in the last chapter what a very speedy reply you are able to give opponent from your CROSS GUARD position. We will now consider the other guards in turn.

**REAR GUARD.**—Do not forget in REAR GUARD that you have your left foot forward. Having guarded opponent's blow at head, his stick will slide down your sloping guard (Fig. 22). Reply at once with a twist of your wrist to left; it is merely a CUT LEFT to his face, neck, etc. (Fig. 23). Do not forget, a glancing blow, and then back to ON GUARD.

**BODY GUARD** (Fig. 6).—You are a veritable spring trap in this position, and there are not fewer than three methods of taking advantage of opponent, after you have guarded his blow.

- (1) Open up! Throw left arm to rear and deliver simultaneous HEAD CUT (1), a turn of the wrist, that is all.
- (2) Open up! And deliver the UPPER CUT from your guard position. Let your stick flick straight up to chin or body, and employ the left arm to add force to your cut by shooting it back.
- (3) Grip your stick with left hand, lower point and jump at opponent's throat, face, etc.

**FLANK GUARD** (Fig. 7).—Exactly the same replies as from BODY GUARD; swing stick to brush left hip for the HEAD CUT and flick stick from wrist for the UPPER CUT, left hand is read to be employed.

When delivering all cuts at head, reach up as high as possible to get over guard of opponent (Fig. 13).

**HAND OR WRIST GUARD** (Fig. 9).—Withdraw hand as you have been shown how to do; and from the far back position you have assumed you are able instantly to thrust forward point of stick to opponent's face, etc., or to deliver a "Flick" which we are soon coming to.

**LEG, SHIN OR ANKLE GUARD** (Figs. 8 and 24).—Withdraw foot smartly to avoid opponent's blow (if opponent has a long stick, spring back, finishing up on your toes, with both feet together

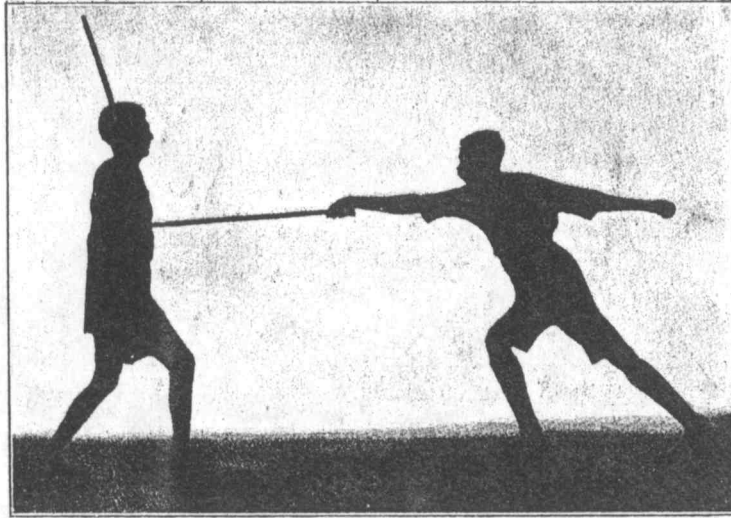


FIG. 31.

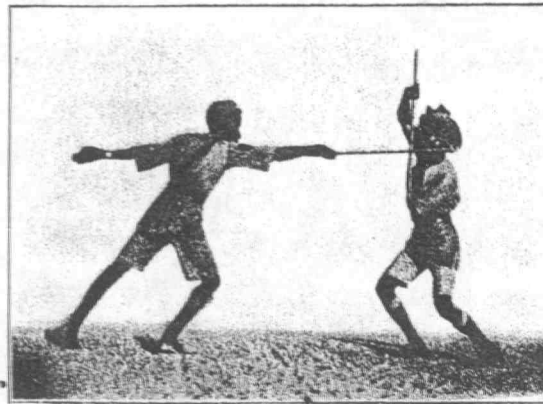


FIG. 32.

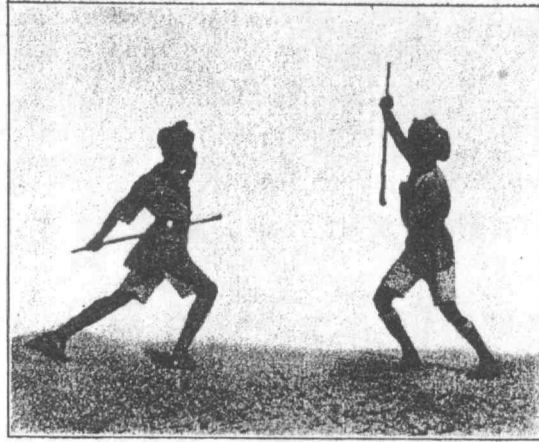


FIG. 33.



FIG. 34.

—you can spring back with ease a couple of yards), bet on your toes, and swinging point of stick to brush left hip, lunge out again with foot which was withdrawn and deliver cut on opponent's head, etc. (Fig. 25). Failing this, see Fig. 14.

You may have taken a fancy to the CROSS GUARD, and would like to employ it whenever possible to guard your head. Now, if you are in FRONT GUARD you can easily do so, but in REAR GUARD (left foot forward) you will have to alter the position of your feet, otherwise you cannot get into CROSS GUARD. If you did, you would be all tied up in a very uncomfortable position, and the guard would not be efficient. This is the way to get into CROSS GUARD from REAR GUARD: As opponent's stick descends, bring your right foot forward in a lunge; keep low, and at the same time shoot up your stick hand to left of head, body sideways to opponent, stick well sloping.

All the guards have their advantages, so practice them all.

Replies to opponents from guard positions should be very speedy, and it is only a matter of getting familiar with the handling of your stick.