

CHAPTER X

DOUBLE HANDED STICK PLAY

You will find the following methods extremely useful if you are up against an opponent armed with a heavy stick, staff, or cudgel. They are extremely easy to grasp at this stage for you have already acquired a knowledge of how to guard yourself and deliver cuts; and you will easily outclass an opponent with heavy armament. You will sail round him like a light craft, for his movements will necessarily be impeded by his unwieldy weapon. The first method of dealing with him you will now realise after the care you have taken of acquiring the knack of guarding your own hand. It should be a cut at his hand, a FLICK, a FLIP, CUTS, UPPER CUT with your CIRCLING GUARD, or the numerous tricks learnt in the last chapter. However, here are further methods of dealing with him.

ON GUARD (Fig. 43).—Get into your FRONT GUARD and grasp stick with both hands behind shoulder ready for attack, and do now forget your foot play, backwards and forwards, as the case may be. From this position your opponent has no indication from which direction your attack will be launched. In fact, it is extremely unlikely he will be in a hurry to attack you, as he will scent danger. However, if he risks a blow at your head you are ready.

HEAD GUARD.—Jump in as blow descends (you must step in for all guards, do not forget) and let your arms arrive at fullest extend with a jerk, taking opponent's *hands* on your stick (Fig. 44). The result will be his stick flies over your head and he sustains a badly damaged hand; for if he is striking at you at all he will naturally put force into his blow.

If he strikes at the left side of your body, your old friend the BODY GUARD comes in, only this time a double handed one (Fig. 45); and how to reply you already know. It is quite simple; release the left hand for your HEAD CUT and UPPER CUT, or jump in straight away with your stick grasped in both hands for a JAB in face, neck, etc., which you know well how to do by now. There is nothing to prevent you using your DISARMING PRACTICE methods; merely release the left hand as you jump forward for your swinging left "hook."

FLANK GUARD.—If opponent strikes at your right side, employ a doubled handed FLANK GUARD (Fig. 46), and reply as you already know how to do. In coming into all double handed guards, maintain the grip with both hands on your stick, *and see that your right hand is always uppermost in BODY GUARD and FLANK GUARD*, so that your replies are not impeded as they would be if your left hand was uppermost. There is nothing new in these guards or counters. They are only a varied form of what you have already learnt.

CUTS.—Do not give opponent any indication from which direction he may expect your CUTS.

CUT LEFT.—Simultaneously with the release of the stick by your left hand lunge out with the right leg. This jerks shoulder round to add speed and force to the CUT (Fig. 47). All should be done in one movement; the CUT is delivered like a flash, and you get straight back on to ON GUARD.

CUT RIGHT (Fig. 48).—Exactly the same, except that the right hand is release, and you lunge forward with left leg and deliver CUT. ON GUARD!

CUT UP ON RIGHT (Fig. 49).—This is where Exercises 5 and 6, which we have left so very far behind, come to our aid, though we may not have appreciated their true value at the time we performed them. They give us a supple shoulder and wrist, and therefore worth going through as we stroll along for a walk. Exactly the same procedure; simultaneous release of stick by left



FIG. 51.



FIG. 52.

hand with lunge by right leg and sweeping upper cut from a supple shoulder and wrist.

UPPER CUT ON LEFT (Fig. 50).—This now needs no description after what has been said.

Herewith yet another method of dealing with your opponent. As his stick descends towards your head, step smartly to the right and swinging round left to deliver cut across wrist or hand of opponent (Fig. 51).

By this stage it is well ingrained into you how to protect your hand, so that when employing these methods you can be left to see, when receiving a blow on your guard, that neither hand is in the way of the blow.

You already know how to guard your legs and you have appreciated the great advantage of jumping into an opponent to lessen the force of his blow. You may now safely be left to do so.