

MODERN SHOT GUNS

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Modern shot guns by W. W. Greener

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MODERN SHOT GUNS.

BY

W. W. GREENER,

AUTHOR OF "MODERN BREECH-LOADERS," "THE GUN AND ITS
DEVELOPMENT," ETC.

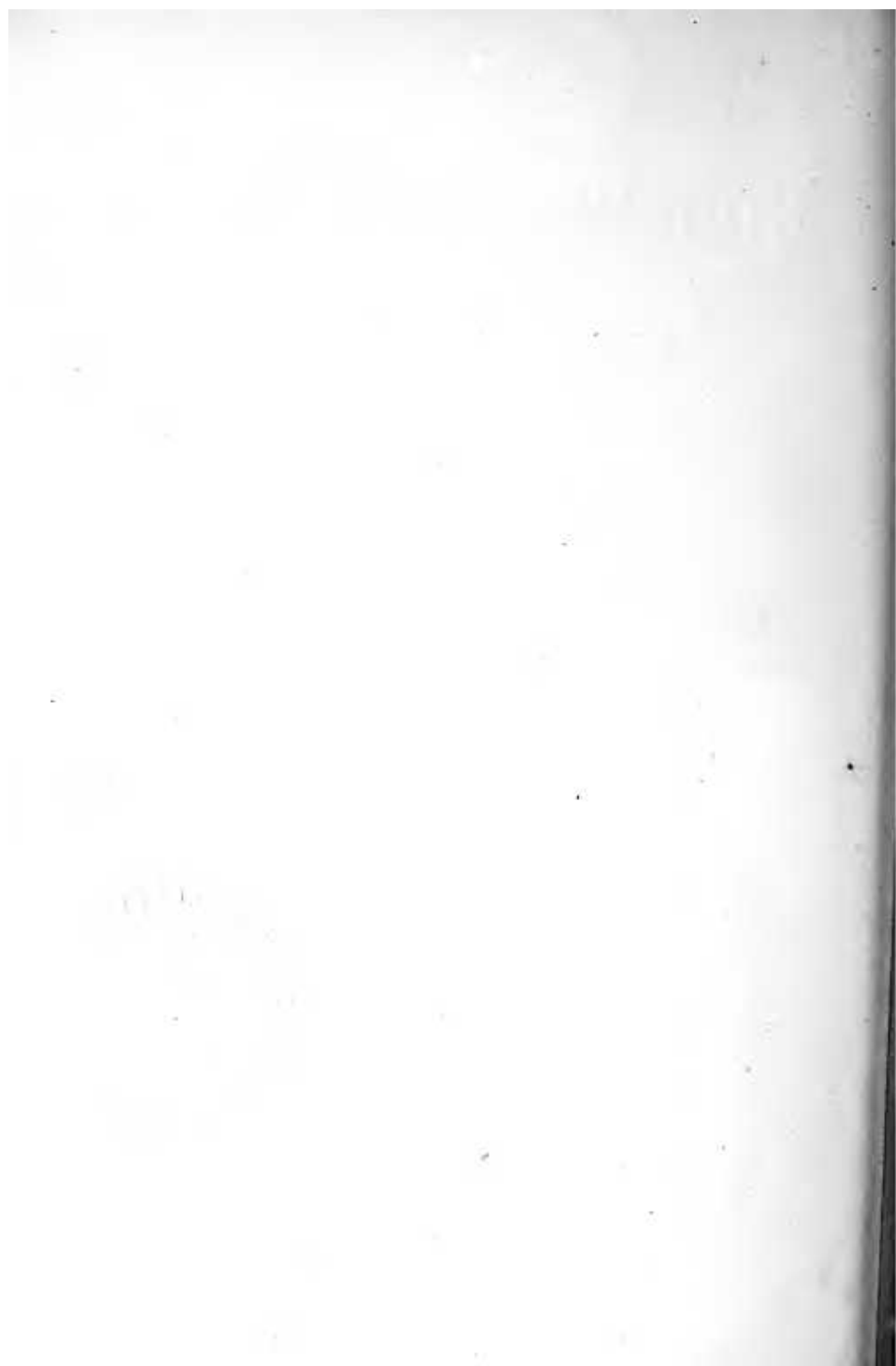
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INTRODUCTION.

IN the present treatise the Author has endeavoured to give such information as is constantly demanded of gunmakers by shooting men. Notwithstanding the number of published books written by sportsmen for sportsmen, there is much information indispensable to those who use guns, which the gunmaker only can impart. MODERN SHOT GUNS is not intended to be a sportsman's encyclopædia, it is not a compound of gunmakers' circulars, nor does it exhibit those conflicting opinions and diverse conclusions found in recent books on the same subject—such books having been written with the collaboration of various persons more or less interested in the subjects treated. These books do not enable the sportsman to arrive at any definite conclusion with respect to the merits or demerits of any mechanism, and merely "beat about the bush" with respect to the more important technicalities of gunnery. The columns devoted to shooting in the sporting newspapers teem with flippant nonsense concerning the facts of gunmaking, and although it is apparent that newspapers derive benefit by keeping subjects perpetually open, by so doing they propagate ignorance amongst their readers, and do but bewilder those they pretend to lead.

It is to the interest of those who use guns, as it is to the interest of the Author, that all the vexed questions of Gunnery be

settled as far as is possible. There can be no excuse for the writers of books intended to guide sportsmen who fail to give a definite opinion with respect to the merits of "choke-bore" or "cylinder," of "hammer-guns" or "hammerless," and whether "nitro-compounds" are better or worse than black gunpowders for use in the modern Shot Gun.

In MODERN SHOT GUNS the Author has made a special endeavour to give the intending purchaser of a modern gun such directions as will enable him to obtain the article best suited for his purpose, to load it to best advantage, and to keep it in good condition ready for immediate use.

The sportsman, therefore, who wishes to know decisively with respect to any recent topic or controversy connected with the gun, has but to turn to the pages of this treatise.

The Author has thought it advisable to preface the book with a *short* historical *résumé* of the development of the Shot Gun, for seeing that the question of "chokes *v.* cylinders" has been seriously discussed so recently as 1887, it may be that the controversy of "breech-loaders *v.* muzzle-loaders" will be resuscitated, and it is possible that information concerning the merits of "firelocks" and percussion guns may yet be required. Meanwhile, the Author takes this opportunity to tender his thanks to the Editors of the Sporting Newspapers for the valuable services rendered to the gun trade generally by their energetic endeavours to obtain more perfect Shot Guns for English sportsmen, and for their able support to and kindly recognition of worthy inventions; and trusts that in the future, as in the past, *they* will direct their attention to the further development of the Shot Gun, rather than to futile discussions of long since accredited inventions.

In the arrangement of this treatise the Author has followed a method which appears to him the best suited to convey an accurate idea of the modern Shot Gun and its capabilities under varying

conditions, without necessitating wearying and bewildering repetitions.

The HISTORICAL Section is necessarily meagre: those sportsmen who desire further information respecting the firearms of our forefathers will find fuller particulars in the Author's book — "*The Gun and its Development.*"

The DESCRIPTIVE Section contains short particulars of the leading types of modern Shot Guns. The numerous illustrations and absence of technical words from the text will be appreciated by those sportsmen who do NOT care for the jargon of the gun-shop nor the phraseology of science.

In the ANALYTICAL Section the various parts of the modern Shot Gun are detailed, with their technical names.

The part referring to the barrels will have interest for many, whilst the details concerning gun-stocks may be perused with benefit by even the most experienced sportsmen.

The TECHNICAL Section is a long one, and, unfortunately, teems with figures, resulting from an endeavour to include the results of all recent important experiments, which, although a knowledge of them is of little actual importance to the sportsman, could not be left unnoticed in a treatise professing to treat of Sporting Gunnery.

The SPECIFIC Section is devoted to descriptions and particulars of such special guns as used for "pigeon shooting," "ducking," "wild-fowling," for "large game," shooting with ball; and treats, moreover, of small-bore guns, light short 12-bore guns, and contains tables specifying what any Shoulder Gun may be expected to average with any of the ordinary loads.

In the CRITICAL Section the Author has fearlessly and without prejudice criticised the various types of guns described in the work, or found in the gun-seller's stock. He has not abstained from giving his opinion, nor from quoting the opinions of others, on