

# **PRACTICAL DRY- FLY FISHING**

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Practical dry-fly fishing by Emlyn M. Gill

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**EMLYN M. GILL**

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FLY FISHING**



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**BY**

**Emlyn M. Gill**

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## INTRODUCTION

No excuses or apologies are necessary for offering to American anglers a little treatise, worthy perhaps of a not more dignified name than "hand-book," on dry-fly fishing. It may be said that the subject has been fully covered by a number of expert writers who have lived in the home of the dry-fly, England, and who have spent many years of their lives in practising this most delicate, artistic and fascinating of sports on the English chalk streams, so smooth, so placid, and fished so long and so constantly that to take from them successfully their highly "educated" trout more scientific methods than those offered by the use of the wet

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fly had to be devised. As a matter of fact, any angling writer who thought for a moment that he could go over the technical ground covered by Mr. Frederic M. Halford, the greatest of English writers on dry-fly methods, and do it successfully without much repetition, or suggest many new or startling improvements over Mr. Halford's methods, would, indeed, exhibit a self-assurance that would be most abnormal, and he might properly be called an eccentric. Mr. Halford did not invent the dry-fly; but he has been an angling enthusiast from his boyhood days. He has been the happy possessor of a keen and studious mind. His one hobby throughout his long life has been the dry-fly. Most fortunately he has had almost unlimited time to devote to its study, and as a result he is the greatest recognized authority on

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this subject. When a very young man he began practising this method of angling, and from that time he has used no other lure than the floating fly. When forty-five years old he retired from business, and since his retirement (he is now nearly seventy) has devoted his life mainly to the study of his favorite sport. Therefore, his works have become *text-books*, studied and followed by all other dry-fly anglers and writers.

But though twenty-three years have elapsed since his most important work appeared, it has produced but little effect upon American angling methods, and the number of Americans who have read his books is so comparatively small as to be almost a negligible quantity. Among the few who have studied his doctrines and followed his methods the effect has been great; they have be-