

**NOTES ON SHOOTING,
WITH INSTRUCTIONS
CONCERNING THE
USE OF NITRO POWDERS**

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Notes on Shooting, With Instructions Concerning the Use of Nitro Powders by An Expert

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AN EXPERT

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NOTES ON SHOOTING.

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EIGHTH EDITION.

NOTES ON SHOOTING,

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OF NITRO POWDERS,

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AN EXPERT.

CURTIS'S & HARVEY, LTD.

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NOTE.

Messrs. Curtis's and Harvey, Ltd., desire to acknowledge their indebtedness to the FIELD for kind permission to reproduce many of the tables and details in the Appendices.

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PREFACE TO THE EIGHTH EDITION.

WHEN the previous editions of this work were issued our knowledge of shot gun ballistics was in a transition stage. Although a few pioneers, both here and abroad, were already advancing towards the elucidation of the laws which govern the action of smokeless powders, sportsmen generally, and the majority even of experts, were still under the sway of lingering traditions. As in all infant sciences, there was an antagonism between the old school and the new. The former, claiming to be practical, dubbed their opponents theorists, the self-styled practical man firmly believing that his ideas were based on facts observed by himself. Nothing has so retarded the progress of many sciences as this delusion; for phenomena thus observed become unconsciously distorted and refracted by reaching the mind through a medium of preconceived theories and prejudices. The first stage in any science may be said to be

that of the clean slate. Speculative theories and erroneous inferences being once and for all put aside, a true foundation can be laid by careful experiment based on the ascertained properties of matter. It may fairly be claimed that this course has been followed in our recent researches in sporting gunnery.

The difficulties have been very great, although the statement of the problem is simple, being in its essence identical with that of the steam engine, viz., the transformation of latent energy into the energy of motion. But we should greatly err if we imagine that this simplicity of statement implied an equal simplicity of investigation. The conditions under which the change takes place are exceedingly complex, and the manipulations necessary for recording and measuring them in a high degree delicate and difficult. So long as the action of guns and gun-powders was believed to be outside the ordinary laws of matter, progress was impossible, but when it was realised that the principles of chemistry, of heat, and of motion were as applicable here as elsewhere, a great impetus was given to research, and much has been added to our knowledge.

It is in order to bring the main results of this work before sportsmen that a new edition of "Notes on Shooting" has been prepared. It has been

completely re-written, and has, moreover, been furnished with a comprehensive series of tables defining and elucidating much that has been more generally referred to in the body of the book. Many questions might doubtless have been dealt with at greater length had it seemed desirable to expand a pamphlet into a treatise, but it is hoped that enough has been given to enable the reader to keep abreast with the main principles of the science. If he takes a deeper interest in shooting than is shown by the mere insertion of a cartridge and the pulling of a trigger, he will find here useful matter of a nature rarely, if ever, referred to in books on shooting. The fact of its absence from many otherwise excellent volumes only emphasises the great gulf which exists between the intelligent speculations of the sportsman and the scientific knowledge which is an essential part of the equipment of the modern powder maker.

Messrs. Curtis's and Harvey think that they may be excused for drawing the reader's attention to the absence of any of those self-advertising paragraphs which are rather too apt to occur in a work of this nature. This is due to the fact that, while endeavouring to satisfy the desire for sound instruction which they have observed among users of their powders, they have aimed at producing a volume