

**THE SOUTH  
COUNTRY  
TROUT STREAMS**

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The south country trout streams by George A. B. Dewar

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**GEORGE A. B. DEWAR**

**THE SOUTH  
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ON THE UPPER TEST.

(From Mr. Percy Buckland's Picture, by kind permission of Mr. Henry Hamman.)



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## PREFACE

I TAKE this opportunity of heartily thanking the many anglers from Kent to Cornwall who have aided me in my endeavour to obtain trustworthy information concerning various south country trout streams; and in particular I must express my obligations to the Rev. William Awdry, of Ludgershall, Wiltshire, Dr. Comber, Colonel Robert Waller, Captain Beaumont, Mr. Nash, of Canterbury, the Rev. F. E. Freeman, the Rev. B. T. Thompson, the Rev. J. I. Procter, His Grace the Duke of Bedford, the Rev. T. Bentham, the Earl of Heytesbury, Colonel Mansel, Mr. H. S. Thomas (author of "The Rod in India"), Colonel Buller, and Mr. E. Goble, all of whom have been put to trouble on my behalf. I also desire to acknowledge the kind assistance of my friend Mr. C. E. Taylor. Two things have especially struck me in the course of my inquiries into the condition and the characteristics of our south country trout streams. First, the large, and, I am afraid, not decreasing, number of fine waters which are subjected to the most objectionable forms of pollution, and, secondly, the lowering of the springs of various chalk streams by water companies and the like. In not a few instances I have seen the first of these evils; seen it and even become fully conscious of it by means



of a sense other than that of the eyes: in others I have been informed of its existence and mischievous effects on fish life and fishing by both angling and non-angling correspondents, who have asked me to draw attention to the state of their streams.

I am convinced from conversations I have had with people, who speak with full knowledge and experience, that the condition of some of our streams is a menace, not only to fish but to human life. From an angling, from an æsthetic, but most of all from a sanitary point of view it is right that we should preserve our streams from pollution other than what is absolutely unavoidable. My strong belief in this matter will, I hope, be regarded as a good excuse for repeatedly referring to pollution in this little book.

To turn to a more pleasant subject, I should like to say that I have not in the least degree changed my opinion that a multiplicity of different kinds of flies and patterns is unnecessary, so far, at any rate, as the dry fly method of angling is concerned. But I have found that views as to the necessity of certain flies and patterns for certain streams are held so firmly by many "local anglers," in regard to wet fly fishing, that I have felt it only right and fair to give lists of favourite flies and patterns for a great number of waters in various parts of the south country. For dry fly work the blue or olive dun in its various forms and shades seems to hold the field as the best of all lures for the trouting season as a whole. It has, indeed, no serious rival out of the brief May-fly season.

G. A. B. D.

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