

68.—WATERPROOFING FOR HERRING-NETS.**By WILLIAM HEARDER.**

[From the Fishing Gazette, March 29, 1884.]

I am pleased to be able at any time to give any information to my brother fishermen, although some in our trade fancy that all recipes should be kept as trade secrets. I must beg to differ from the general run, for I am never happier than when I am showing an amateur how to tie a fly or repair a broken rod.

We waterproof our herring-nets in different ways. One plan is to soak them in boiled linseed oil for a few hours, and then spread them out in the open air to dry; this will take some three or four days, or sometimes more, according to the state of the weather. Another plan is to soak them in Stockholm or gas tar diluted with turpentine, and dry also in the open air. These two plans are open to objections, for they make the nets hard and wiry, and fish do not get meshed so easily in a stiff net as they do in a soft one. The plan I like best is that I use for my lines. We make a solution by taking one-half pound of catechu (which can be obtained from any ironmonger or druggist) to every gallon of water, boil it until all the catechu is dissolved, then put in your nets or lines, and let them stay all night, taking care not to have any heat or fire underneath the vessel while the nets and lines are in. I generally add sulphate of copper in the proportion of one-half ounce to the gallon (this acts as a "fixer" for the tan). When the things are taken out they can be washed in clean water and hung up to dry. By this last method the nets will be found very much softer; and I have proved from experience that nets preserved with oil or tar do not last as long as nets preserved with the ordinary tan or catechu. Some firms put a small quantity of size with the catechu; this I disapprove of; it may look better, but after the first once or twice using, it is not only washed out of the twines, but takes a proportion of the tanning with it.

PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND, 1884.

69.—TRANSFER OF SOFT-SHELL TERRAPIN FROM THE OHIO TO THE POTOMAC RIVER.**By J. P. DUKEHART.**

I put in the Potomac River, below the dam at Cumberland, on August 25, 1883, eighteen soft-shell terrapins, from the Ohio River, near Moundsville, W. Va.

I will put in more of them this season at Wolfmont, near Club House. I hope they may in time stock the Potomac.

BALTIMORE, MD., April 6, 1884.