

hand, and, approaching the bull, stands with outstretched arms enticing him to make a rush. If the bull be a good one, he will not have to wait. In comes the infuriated beast, and the man stands quite motionless, until one fancies that he must be gored; but, no, with the quickness of lightning, both the little darts are plunged into the fatty part of the beast's neck, one on each side; and, whilst the great beast is plunging and foaming in the ring, the banderillero has gone to fetch another pair of banderillas. If the "suerte," as the mode of placing the darts is called, be of the kind I have mentioned, it is sure to bring down a roar of applause. There are other modes of putting in banderillas, of which, perhaps, the most common is to run across the direction in which the bull is going, and place the darts without stopping. Should any one of the bull-fighters find it necessary to take to his heels, he is shouted at by the crowd without mercy, and any personal peculiarity he may possess is made the ground for hundreds of jests. "Be quick, you with the large feet."—"Take care, long nose!" &c.

When it is thought by the authorities that the bull has had enough of it, the bugle sounds for the matador, or killer, to come out. Everybody goes out of the ring, and the matador, who is the hero of the occasion, in all his gorgeousness of costume, with the muleta, or scarlet cloak, and sword in one hand, steps out into the ring, and, with an air of great importance, walks up to the front of the president, and, taking off his hat, and lifting his hand on high, he begs permission to kill the bull. This being accorded, he flings his hat upon the ground, and, accompanied by the second espada, he goes towards the bull, wherever

he may be. Covering the sword with his muleta, he approaches the bull, who rushes blindly towards the scarlet cloak. Again and again he charges, but the matador does not move more than a yard or two. One must watch closely to see the blow given, for at a favourable opportunity a little streak of light is seen to flash like lightning, and if the blow has been well aimed, the bull sinks down on his knees before his conqueror, who has not changed his position, but stands calm and unmoved amidst the deafening shouts of the people. The audience have gone mad; they are standing up, screeching, stamping, and yelling. Hats, cigars, and money are thrown into the ring in a perfect shower; handkerchiefs and umbrellas are waved, and the great crowd heave with excitement. The matador calmly walks back to the front of the president's box, makes his bow, and then he and his assistants pick up the hats, which still continue to fall, and throw them back into the crowd; the money and cigars he keeps for himself. I should not like it to be supposed that it takes so much as this to put the audience into an intense state of excitement; for a blow such as I have described is of rare occurrence, at any rate anywhere out of Seville or Madrid. In order to kill a bull and bring him on his knees with one blow, and without moving, is a feat which cannot be accomplished by anybody short of a very first-rate man and an unerring aim. But be the man as good as he may, if the bull is false, and does not enter straight, this sort of blow is rendered perfectly impossible. It is considered very good work if the bull is so pierced that he cannot keep on his legs, but lays down, where he is killed by means of the puntilla, a short iron instrument, which is driven into the spine

just where the head joins the neck. But it is quite impossible to lay down any general rule as to what is good killing and what is bad, for so much depends upon the sort of bull that is to be dealt with and his mode of attack. When the bull is dead, six mules, with very ornamental harness, are hooked on to the horns of the bull, which is dragged out of the ring whilst the band plays. The dead horses are afterwards removed in the same way, and the bugle sounds for the next bull to be let out; and the same thing, with little variation, is gone through again.

The Spaniards received this sport from the Moors, among whom it was celebrated with great splendour; and such is still the rage for the performance, that children are often seen mimicking it in their play.



P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generalife
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA

JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

CHAPTER XXXIV.

THE AUTHENTIC RULES OF THE BULL-RING.

(Translated from the Spanish.)

The Manager.—The manager will have to announce in the hand-bills the number of bulls which have to run in each fight; the name and neighbourhood of the breeder or master of the grazing-place; the names, ages, colour, brand, and circumstances relating to all the bulls, in the order in which they have to fight. The names, nicknames, and office of each one of the cuadrilla, both on foot and mounted.

There shall not be offered for sale a greater number of places and entradas* than can conveniently be located in the ring. From one and another shall be cut off a number of places equal to the number of the guard of soldiers. Half-an-hour before the commencement of the performance the ground of the ring shall be arranged, without pools of water, holes, or stones.

The ring ought to be opened to the public the evening before and the day of the performance until twelve o'clock in the day, unless the bad surface prevents the privilege, at the discretion of the authorities. The ring will be attended by a sufficient number of assistants, dressed in a decent and uniform manner.

* An entrada is a ticket of entrance to the top tier in the bull-ring, without seats.

Three of them will be placed for service of the banderilla,* considering the ring to be divided into three equal parts, in each of which there will be three assistants. Of these, one will have the duty of assisting the picador who may fall within his department, helping up the horse, putting the man's foot in the stirrup or spear, and aiding the picadors in any way that may seem necessary, but without running behind the horses beating them. The other two assistants will have in their department six baskets, constantly full of sand, to cover up and dry immediately any blood there may be in the ring. They will have also another empty basket, to pick up in it the entrails or filthiness of the horses, wherever they may be, without dragging them along the ground. They have also the duty of collecting, with promptitude, the horses and bulls, and of helping to hook them on, so that the mules may drag them out.

Two days before each performance there will be procured by the authorities forty-eight pairs of bandarillas naturales, twenty pairs de fuego,† sixteen spears, and two half-moons.‡

In the infirmary there shall be five beds prepared. A medicine chest, and a doctor and bleeder, shall be in attendance.

Horses.—Twenty-four hours before each fight the proving of the horses should be made. In this act

* A small sharp dart, ornamented with paper, which is dexterously stuck into the bull when in full career.

† These are darts which are used in the case of a bull being dull, and are provided with gunpowder, which explodes in the bull's flesh. They are rarely used.

‡ This is a knife in the shape of a half-moon, on a long handle, which is used to hamstring the bull, in case he cannot be killed in the orthodox manner.

the authorities ought to be present, or a person of some such capacity, accompanied by a person of knowledge and intelligence. The proving ought to be public, so that the spectators may judge of the operations in which they are going to take part. The horses which are presented to be proved should be quite fourteen hands high. They must be soft-mouthed, and obey the right and left rein, going back or forward, and allowing spurs without being afraid, kicking, &c. They must be agile, and of sufficient strength, especially on the right side, to resist the rush of the bull.

The proof having been made of each horse, and having been admitted by the picadors, they shall be taken to the stable, from which they shall only be brought for the performance. The horses that have not been admitted shall be taken out of the ring, and it shall not be allowed for them to enter it again.

If, after the proving, in six hours before the performance any horse shall be found useless, it shall be submitted to a new trial, and it shall abide by that result.

Every horse approved of shall be marked or branded in such manner that another cannot be substituted for it. For every horse who, during the performance, shall not answer to the proofs made upon it the day before, a heavy fine shall be put upon the picadors conjointly with the contractor. The number of horses which should remain approved for each fight should not be below twenty; but obliging the contractor to have the performance well stocked in such a manner that at the conclusion of the fight there may always be ten horses over, be what it may the mortality which has occurred. At the entrance

of the door to the stable there shall be constantly six horses saddled and bridled. The horses badly hurt, which remain dying in the arena, should be killed with the puntilla,* in order to avoid the horrible spectacle which they present.

The appendages, saddles, and stirrups should be in good order, and well placed; to the satisfaction and measurement of the picador who has to use them, and under the eye of the authorities' agent, who must prevent saddles, &c., being changed without express order for the same.

Picadors.—The picadors ought to observe in the fight a most rigorous turn, beginning the attack with the eldest. The picadors ought to compel the bull, but without following or vexing him. The picadors are obliged to seek the bull as far as the third part of the ring when he takes up his position in the centre. Placed in action to receive, they should never prick the bull in the gristle of the nose. The same picador may not place two blows following, and much less renew the attack without freeing himself from the blow preceding. Whilst a picador is making his attack another may not interfere. No picador may dismount for another, or change horses with him. All blows not placed in the fatty part of the neck will be considered against law, and a fine should be placed upon the picador who dislocates the shoulder of a bull.

The picadors ought never to place the pole near to the hole or wound which the bull may have received in consequence of any blows received before, lest in placing a blow close in taking the spear out they introduce it in the same place, making it very tender,

* An iron instrument, which is driven into the spine of the dying animal where the neck joins the head.

so much so that the bull becomes soft, and flies from the punishment without giving play, to the prejudice of the public and the breeders.

The picador should not disappear from the ring longer than is necessary to mount. The picadors in reserve ought to be always at the door to the stable, ready to mount as soon as it may be necessary, except the first reserve, who should always be mounted in that place. In the same place, behind the second door to the stables, there should always be as many assistants as there are picadors in the ring, holding each one a horse, prepared at every point to go out.

When there are three picadors in the ring, if one falls, and has to go in for another horse, the two who remain shall go on performing without the necessity of the first reserve coming out; but if of the two remaining one should fall, his horse remaining incapable of serving, and the first who went for another horse has not come out, then the reserve ought to come out, so that the ring may be considered served always, that out of three picadors there may always be two in the ring.

For the care of each picador there should not be more than one espada* and two banderilleros. The former shall be at two yards from the horse, and the latter more than eight; both being quite covered by the horse, so that the bull may not be distracted.

The picadors shall place themselves in order of age, the first being the youngest and the last the eldest,

* Literally a sword, but also used to denote the killer of the bull, who is the chief man of the cuadrilla. The duty of these men, who carry cloaks, is to draw off the bull, in case horse and rider should be thrown.

which order shall not be broken, excepting in the case of any being dismounted and having taken a new horse.

Banderillas.—The banderilleros shall strike according to age, but they shall lose place every time that a false stroke is made. When an espada wishes to put banderillas, he should never use ordinary pairs, but double, nor at the greater or half turn, but in front. It shall not be allowed to use banderillas de fuego without express orders from the authorities. All banderillas not put into the fleshy part of the neck shall be considered badly put, and any one purposely placing them in any other place should be punished.

The performance of banderillas should conclude at the moment that the trumpet for killing sounds, and only one pair of banderillas shall be placed, if the banderillero has gone out to the bull, at the sound of the bugle. Only in extreme cases shall any banderilla be placed from the barrier in the bull who will not enter to the cloaks from the boards where he may take up his stand; but in no case shall the bull be hurt with the small spear. When the banderillero has put the first pair, he shall go on putting them whenever he may have a chance, without consideration of his companion.

*Chulillos.**—The bull-fighters should suffer with patience any expressions that the public direct to them, without returning words that may offend, or direct offensive looks. This party should not, during the performance of the picadors, be dispersed over the plaza.

When the bull comes out of the den, this party shall draw the bull in the direction of the horses, so

* These are men who play the bull with coloured cloaks, and take his attention away from the matadors, picadors, and banderilleros, when in any danger.

that he may not be distracted and tire himself by giving two or three turns in the plaza, and not enter to the poles,* thereby bringing discredit on the breeder and giving offence to the public.

It should not be permitted for these fighters to cut off the bulls, to break their legs, or give them blows with the cloak. They should not quit the legs of the bulls whilst they are being pricked, nor should they do anything with them except at the order of the espadas. Every one of them should possess lightness and valour, and a perfect knowledge of the rules of his art.

Matadors. †—From the moment that the president makes the sign for the cuadrilla to come out, and they have entered the ring, the first espada, as chief of them, will remain in charge and responsible for the direction which he may give to the performance, and for anything that may occur in the ring, without prejudicing the compliment which is paid to the authorities, giving them the power of regulating the duration, &c., of each part.

During the performance with the spear there will be an espada at the stirrup of each picador, but he may never present his cloak to the bull until he arrives at the horse, or until the engagement between them may be concluded. It shall not be permitted that any person shall be at the right of the toril. ‡ Neither shall it be permitted, whilst the pricking of the bulls is taking place, to challenge the bulls with a cloak, turn them off, or call to them.

* This word, in the Spanish, *vara*, means literally a pole, or long spear. The weapon really used is a pole about ten feet long, with a short iron point, about an inch and a half long.

† Literally "killers."

‡ The name given to the place where the bulls are kept. This is also called *chiquero*.

The matador ought to go alone to seek the bull, in whatever place he may be remaining; at a certain distance, the second espada and two banderilleros, to execute any orders that may be necessary. The matador should never launch out at the bull until he has placed himself for the blow, and in the ground which he is going to occupy. The matador shall always kill from the front, and with nobleness, and have his feet quite inactive; to perform the passes of the breast in very small space, to receive shortly and firmly, and to fly from making the stabs under cover of the passes of the banderillas, are things very dishonourable in a matador.

The best stab, according to the Seville school, is the volapié* for bulls who do not obey, or who obey little, the scarlet cloak. This school gives only half-passes, and for this reason it is called the "vast school." The stab of most merit, according to the school of the Porto, is face to face, with the feet inactive, summoning the bull, and receiving him. This is the most noble, most decent, and most meritorious stab, because it entails greater exposure on the matador.

The killing shall be according to the notices and order of each espada, without being permitted to change turns, or resign, or disorder the bull's hair, except it is found necessary to do so.

The media-luna shall not be employed except in the most extreme cases; but, from the moment of its being demanded, the matador shall retire.

Fiel de Plaza.—In every ring there should be a person known as intelligent in bulls and bull-fights, which person will perform the duty of *fiel de plaza* (clerk of the ring). His duties will be—1st.

* Half-running.

As soon as the company announces the view of the bulls, he will pass by the place where they may be, and make an inspection, taking the name, pounds, ages, colour, brand, and condition of all the bulls, and also any defects that they may have in their horns or sight. 2nd. As a consequence of this inspection, he shall give a document to the authorities, assuring them that the bulls are, or are not, the same as those announced, and that they have, or have not, the conditions of "ring bulls." 3rd. To assist with the authorities in the proof of horses, taking a note of the height, brand, colour, age, and other particulars of each horse that is approved, and to examine the saddles. 4th. To assist in shutting up the bulls, in order that he may certify that in that act no hurt has been caused, taking away the keys of the toril, and delivering them to the authorities. 5th. To accompany the authorities in presiding, so that they may take counsel in as many cases as are deemed fit.

The duty of *fiel de plaza* ought to be paid, but he also shall be punished in case of an abuse of the confidence entrusted to him.

The President.—Before beginning the performance, and at the moment that the president orders the ring to be cleared, the curators of the barrier, without pausing or looks of any kind, ought to turn out all that have no business in that place, so that there shall remain only a number of necessary assistants, who ought not to be more than some twenty-one persons, including policemen and dependents. The authorities will be accompanied by the judge of the ring, of whom they will take advice in any difficulty that may occur. They should not permit anybody to go down into the passage or inside the barrier until

after the death of the last bull. The people in that place distract the bull, and occasion accidents when the bull jumps over. They shall not permit any bull-fighter to have any conversation, and much less dispute, with the public; neither shall they permit the assistants of the ring to group themselves together in one place, but, on the contrary, that every one of them shall occupy his own place. The performance of the picadors shall continue as long as the bull enters to the poles, but taking care always that the banderilleros perform before the bull is exhausted.

As a general rule, they should not consent that any person not belonging to the cuadrilla shall take part in the performance. When any person wishes to ask this favour, he should go up to the box of the president, accompanied by the espada, and there make his desire known, accompanying it with any reasons he may have for the same, the espada certifying as to the capacity of the would-be performer. In the case of the president acceding to his request, he should go down to the ring, and ask in public the favour that has already been conceded to him.

There shall be no banderillas de fuego used to any bull who has taken three pricks in the performance, but these shall not be considered as such which may have been taken by the bull roused up or running away.

Modes of using the Cloak.—The principal modes of using the cloak are the following:—A la veronica or de frente (from the front) á la navarra; de tigerilla or á la chatre; al costado (from the side); de frente por detras (the front from behind).

Modes of using Banderillas.—The modes of using banderillas are of five kinds. A cuarto (from the quarter); á media vuelta (or the half-turn); á topa

carnero (sheep's blow); al sesgo (slope); á la carrera, or trascuerno (in full career, or behind the horns); and al recorte.

Passes of the Scarlet Cloak.—These are of two kinds:—Pase regular and pase del pecho (pass of the breast).

Modes of Killing.—The mode of killing may be done in several ways. Recibiendo (receiving); á vuelta pies (or the foot's turn); á la carrera (in full career); á media vuelta (half-turn); and á paso de banderilla (the pass of the banderilla).

Kinds of Bulls.—Bulls differ in boyantes, revoltosos, que se ciñen, que ganan terreno, de sentido, and abantos. Boyantes, or claros, are those which, being brave, will at the same time follow the lure and close. Revoltosos, or celosos, do not differ from the former, except being braver, and in having a greater desire to pick up things.

Que se ciñen are those which, although they come well to the lure, they do so throwing themselves a great deal upon the player. Que ganan terreno are those which during the performance do not cease walking about. De sentido are those which, disregarding the lure, close with the object. Abantos are the cowardly and timid, which run away from the lure and even from the player.

There are other bulls, which are called burri-ciegos and they are of three classes: some that see much very near and little further away; others that see little near and much far off; and others that see little both far and near.

END OF VOL. I.