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Hotel Discoveries

A Sporting Centre near Falmouth

By Ashley Courtenay

JOURNEYING in the West Country the other day, I revisited an old friend—the Manor House Hotel at Budock Vean. And it occurred to me that its sporting facilities are so unusually extensive that *Sporting and Dramatic* readers would be interested in a general description of it.

Situated on the Helford River, about five miles west of Falmouth,

hotel. A really good nine-hole course, laid out by James Braid, has wisely been preferred to an eighteen-hole one, which would be rather cramped in the space.

Delightful Bathing

The bathing at Budock Vean is delightful, for Mr. Parkinson has contrived a sort of Lido of grassy mounds down by the water's edge,



THE MANOR HOUSE HOTEL AT BUDOCK VEAN.

Budock Vean has great natural advantages. For it occupies one of the mildest and most sheltered spots in the whole of the West. It is in the heart of the country, surrounded by trees; and the garden ends in Navas Creek, a wide salt-water tributary of the Helford Estuary.

Anchorage for Biggish Craft

It is necessary to mention Navas Creek because life at Budock Vean is bound up with it in more ways than one. If you are a sailor, you will find that the Helford River offers excellent anchorage even for biggish craft . . . while for dinghies, motor launches and other small craft, it is one of the most magnificent playgrounds anywhere.

"Yes," you say, "but the hiring of boats is expensive." Here you underestimate Mr. Harry Parkinson, the enterprising proprietor of the Manor House at Budock Vean. For Mr. Parkinson believes that his "inclusive" terms really should include everything that a guest will want to do.

Of course he will want to go out on the river . . . so the hotel owns rowing, sailing, and motor boats, which are free to the visitors! What more delightful way can be imagined of spending a day than embarking at the bottom of the hotel garden in a motor launch, going down the Helford estuary, across Falmouth Harbour, picnicking at St. Mawes, and returning again in the evening . . . all for the cost of the petrol!

A Nine-Hole Golf Course

For golfers there is a club and a nine-hole course attached to the

where you can sit and sun-bathe all day if you like, and as you dive in, you can think of the Duchy oysters which you may be disturbing . . . and which you may be eating at dinner the same evening.

For food at Budock Vean is a source of special pride. The hotel employs its own fishermen, who, in addition to taking the guests on fishing expeditions, supply the hotel with all its fish. The catches come from the Helford River and the Cornish sea outside; while oysters come, of course, from the famous Port Navas beds, which lie right opposite the hotel.

Varied Menus

Mr. Parkinson believes that variety is the spice of feeding, and his menus are devised to give the widest choice.

The hotel itself is a very comfortable building—part of it really old, part of it recently built in the old style. Even now a new wing is being added which will increase the number of bedrooms to about 80, and give a new games room far bigger than the old one.

There is also a sun-lounge from which you look right down the garden and across the creek to the oyster beds on the other side—a view which in the spring and summer must be unforgettable. The bedrooms are comfortable and modernly equipped, there are plenty of bathrooms . . . and last, but by no means least, you can dance every night.

For anyone who wants a holiday of sport and sunshine in the West, I know of few places more full of character than Budock Vean.

[Mr. Ashley Courtenay is always pleased to advise "Sporting and Dramatic" readers on hotels large and small, known to him personally. Letters should be addressed to him c/o The Editor, "The Sporting and Dramatic News," 32, St. Bride Street, E.C.4.]