

down. The Philippine spurs are curved blades, like those of penknives, and are fastened by a steel loop over the hind toe of the cock, and secured by means of two prongs, which embrace the base of the natural spur.* Hence the bird deals his blow at the end of a longer lever. A single blow often lays the opponent dead. The spur blades are kept carefully covered with leather sheaths, and as sharp as razors. If a cock runs away, as is sometimes the case, he is counted beaten. I was told that some of the cocks survive three or four years, and kill twenty or thirty opponents.

When not actually fighting their cocks, on the few days intervening between the festivals, the natives train the birds and teach them to fight, squatting opposite one another, and holding the birds by the tails, and allowing them to strike at each other without doing injury. The Chinese shopkeepers



COCK-SPUR USED IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FOR FIGHTING COCKS

usually keep a pet cock tied by a string to a peg on the path outside the door, and slip out and have a friendly set-to with a neighbour's cock, in the intervals between the arrivals of customers.

Papal indulgences for sins, and even for crimes, are still sold in the Philippines, by the Government, at its offices all over the country, at the same counters with tobacco, brandy, and lottery tickets, and other articles of which the Government retains the monopoly. The perpetual right to sell indulgences in Spain and its colonies was granted to the Spanish Crown by the Pope in 1750. In 1844-45 the Government received from this source of revenue upwards of £58,000.†

* Similar spurs are used in Nicaragua. Thos. Belt, "The Naturalist in Nicaragua," p. 42. London, John Murray, 1874.

† For the most valuable and exhaustive account of the Philippine Islands, see F. Jager, "Reisen in den Philippinen." Berlin, Wiedmann, 1873. For account of Sale of Indulgences, see s. 108.