

so resemble their surroundings as to be disguised either from their enemies or from their prey. According to conditions the hue may be sombre or brilliant. A partridge for instance resembles the dried leaves among which she has her nest, and green parrots resemble the foliage of the trees among which they dwell. Among fishes there are instances both of sombre and brilliant coloration, whereby, in either case, they are concealed. Instances of the latter are certain fishes of the coral reefs. Were these of dull colors, they would readily be seen whilst they moved about among the beautiful flower-like zoophytes ; therefore they are singularly ornamented with colors of surpassing beauty. Incidentally were one asked the question whether a bright red or a jet black object would most readily attract attention, the answer would naturally be the bright red of course. But that depends on conditions. If a scarlet cloth were hung upon the wall, and an object similarly colored placed against it, it would not readily catch the eye ; but if a jet black object were placed against the red cloth, it would readily be seen. For the same reason, evidently, such beautiful fishes as the tropical chaetodons, and other forms which abound among the coral mounds, are embellished in gorgeous reds, blues, yellows, or greens : colors ordinarily conspicuous, but which offer concealment, more or less, to those fishes amid their natural environments.

#### THE ANGLER OR SO CALLED FISHING FROG.

A case the opposite to the above is the so called Fishing Frog or Angler. This fish is not readily detected because it is of the sombre hue of its surroundings, and has moreover the power to change its color according to the character of the surroundings. The Angler lurks at the bottom of its retreat with its great gaping mouth ready to devour its prey. A long filament issues from the back of its head, which the angler waves about like a fishing rod. This filament terminates in a bait like lappet, and some unwary little fish which does not see the angler comes to nibble at it, and is at once engulfed in the great gape of this wily creature.