

who wished to see it. This was over thirty years ago, and that I still have the Aquarium in almost as good condition as when I purchased it, is, I think, sufficient evidence that it was well adapted for its purpose. It is a comparatively small one, being only fifteen by nine inches. I think I may say it has done its full share in the way of attracting attention to "Life below the water." The first great difficulty I had to contend with was the multiplicity of objects that were brought to me for it by my cadets.

You would be astonished if I were to give you all the varied suggestions that were made respecting what should constitute the floor of the tank, some recommending small pebbles, others, gravel or sand, till finally a compromise was effected to the satisfaction of all, by giving each of the proposed materials its own place. Experience afterwards showed that a little clean river sand is the safest ground work for all purposes. Then there was the natural inquisitiveness of boyhood to combat. Whilst the novelty was at its height, the inmates were subjected to all sorts of ordeals, such as poking up with a stick, to see if they were lively; and a continual desire was evinced to handle them. Over-feeding was one of the most trying evils to contend against, for the superfluity of bread and meat supplied, in all good intent, for the use of the inmates, had a tendency to sour and discolor the water, and to create, when overdoses were administered, a fermentation by no means conducive to vitality. However, for the sake of encouraging research and creating amongst the cadets an interest in my Aquarium, I would naturally put up with all these little inconveniences, removing as soon as possible when left to myself, all extraneous matters from the water, and by frequent use of the siphon withdrawing the disturbed contents to be replaced with fresh, healthy, spring water. In a very little time the Aquarium ceased to be a wonder and became an object of interest, and so my point was gained.

I well remember its first inmate, which was the larva of a Dragon-fly, the various stages of whose subaqueous life were of continual interest, and great was the astonishment one day, when only an empty case was found attached to the stalk of the water weeds, its inmate having taken to itself wings and disappeared. The locality afforded a splendid field for collecting, as the Croton River emptied into the Hudson within a