

still water, to which he was unaccustomed. He lay all the time ensconced between two small stones, hiding himself as closely as possible from observation, refusing food, and evidently sulking as wild animals do when first placed in confinement. The enormous size of his mouth as compared with his other dimensions, gave evidence of the capacity of these fish for disposing of a large meal at a time, but I never had the satisfaction of witnessing the operation of feeding, and I fancy from the retiring habits of the "bull-head" family, very little is really known about them.

Now leaving fish, I must dwell for a minute or two, on the amphibious denizens of the Aquarium. The Water Newt, Eft, and Triton, familiarly known as Lizards, although as repulsive as snakes to some people, afford much interest and amusement. I must confess I have never been fond of them, as I have a great aversion, inborn I suppose, to both lizards and snakes, but I have had Tritons in my Aquarium, as the cadets I spoke of, frequently brought them to me. The Triton is by no means shy, and is really grotesque in his movements, lying sometimes midway between the bottom and the surface, with all his legs spread out at right angles. At other times he suspends himself in the water, moving his feet up and down as a bather treads water, then darting frantically about with great rapidity. Occasionally he sits erect on the bottom of the aquarium, on his hind legs with his fore paws bent forward, like a dog begging. This position the Triton will keep for some time. He is also fond of resting on any portion of rock projecting out of the water, but if he can by any possibility climb to the edge of the aquarium, that is the last of him, as he is evidently of a roving disposition, and in search of the nearest road to liberty he is very apt to be crushed out of existence under foot.

The Tadpoles that were brought to me in every stage of growth, were, as the auctioneer says: "Too numerous to mention." I occasionally, to please the bringer, kept one or two for a short time, or till such period as their tails dropped off, at which stage of their existence, if I had not treated them myself to freedom, they would have gained it for themselves, as a frog in a state of maturity can only be kept in bounds by a fine wire grating laid over the aquarium, without which it is futile to keep them for observation. The tadpole, owing to the imperfection