

of my fish, though the death of some of them while he was an inmate, I attributed to his work.

A very interesting class of occupants are the so-called Fresh Water Snails, among which I have always preferred *Planorbis*, whose shell reminds one of the fossil ammonite, *Paludina*, or marsh agate shell, *Limnæa*, and *Physa*. These are all and each a study in themselves. Seen only in their native state they would seem to possess few points of attraction, but when under observation they are very different. The species of *Physa* and *Limnæa* have a curious habit of floating on the surface with shell downwards, propelling themselves by a wavy motion of the wing-like apparatus that encircles their body. They all multiply rapidly, attaching their eggs by a transparent substance to the glass, or to stems of plants, but the voracity of their co-occupants,—fish—seldom allows them to come to maturity, so that there is an alarming table of infant mortality amongst these shell-fish. The utility of these as agents in keeping down the green growth of confervæ in an aquarium is great and the way in which they clean the glass is most interesting. The occupant of the shell puts forth his proboscis, turning it apparently inside out as we do a stocking, until the silky surface, which is the tongue, comes in contact with the glass. It then makes a sweep, like a mower's scythe, taking up into a swath all the confervæ on that spot. The proboscis enfolds this, and the tongue takes upon it all the vegetation which it has collected and disappears in the animal's interior. A forward movement is then made and another portion of the glass is swept clean by the same process, so that the track of the snails upon the glass may be traced as distinctly as that of a mower, by his swath along a meadow. Although I have had what are known as "fresh-water clams," that is the *Unios* and the *Anodons*, as occupants, they are unsatisfactory, and if a person wishes to study their habits, I think they ought to have a receptacle for themselves. They require a muddy bottom in which to move, and their habits are so distinct and different from those of everything else that they would need segregation from other occupants.

Water Beetles are another interesting branch of life under water, but the larger ones are too voracious to be kept any length of time. I introduced the large Horny-cased, Black Water-Beetles (species of

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