

fouled the water, and to remedy this he tried the introduction of a few snails, which, feeding on decaying matter, quickly restored purity and clearness to the water. In 1852, he experimented with sea-water and its occupants, with equal success. To Mr. Gosse, however, the well-known naturalist, may be attributed the popularity of the Aquarium which is certainly the purest of all household recreations. His first work on the subject, somewhere about the year 1855, was read with avidity, and although the London "Punch," levelled its keenest wit and satire against the new mania, and pointed to all the mishaps which might befall housekeepers by the breaking of the Aquarium and the consequent deluging of carpets, the passion for aquaria grew, and in 1857 they may be said to have been formally established in England. In that year, one of the quarterly Reviews remarked that the making and stocking of these had created a new and important branch in commercial industry. In 1856, Barnum introduced into New York the first of what he styled—"Ocean and River Gardens," and a few months afterwards they were for sale of all sorts and sizes, for private use. Before that, the glass globe for gold-fish was the only representative of the new apparatus. In keeping an Aquarium, very little is wanted besides the tank itself. It is well to have an india-rubber tube or a syphon for drawing off the water when necessary; a wooden forceps for removing any object, and a sponge stick for cleaning the glass, together with a small fine-meshed hand net for handling any of the inmates if need be.

Some years ago, when residing in New York State, I was attached to one of the Military Colleges affiliated with West Point; and one of the first things that I did to engage the interests of the Cadets under my charge, was to turn their minds, during leisure hours, to the study of Natural History.

As I was at that time making collections of all kinds, I enlisted them in the work of procuring specimens, and I organized, on our Saturday holiday, field parties among the woods and mountains in the vicinity of the College, along the Hudson River. This was just at the time when Aquaria were in vogue, and I took advantage of the first visit that I paid to New York, to purchase an Aquarium for my own private use, which I kept in my quarters, open to the inspection of all