

As during hot weather especially it is very difficult to keep certain of the more delicate of the fish alive, and also to obtain fresh specimens, it may happen that some may be described in this catalogue without any representative in the tanks. This will, of course, be avoided as much as possible, and only such species described as are likely to be on exhibition.

The common and scientific names of the species will be given in the catalogue and also attached to the specimens, so that there will be no difficulty in distinguishing each object.

## FISH.

Although we have in our lakes and rivers a vast number of species of fish, a large proportion of them are only to be obtained during certain seasons; and unfortunately it so happens that the month of September is about the worst time of the whole year for this purpose. Another difficulty is that of keeping many of the most beautiful and interesting species alive, the large and important family of the *Clupeide*, or herrings, being of this number. The exhibit has, however, been made as representative as possible, and contains many of the most useful and interesting species of the family.

### The Yellow Perch. *Perca flavescens*.

Body oblong, somewhat compressed; the back elevated; cheeks scaly; opercles mostly naked striate; snout projecting; dark olivaceous; sides golden yellow, with six to eight broad cross-bars from back to below middle of side; lower fins orange, upper olivaceous, spinous.

A well-known fish, inhabiting Europe, where it is found as high as 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. In America it inhabits the temperate fresh waters from Labrador to Georgia, but is not found in the lower Mississippi basin. It has been mentioned by some observers that these fish arrange themselves in shoals, according to size. As the perch bites freely, it is a favorite of the young angler; its flesh is firm and good.

### The Sun Fishes. *Contrarchide*.

A family of fishes, including the Basses, characteristic of the Mississippi valley, all but one species (*Archoplites interruptus*, of California) being confined to the waters of the Eastern States and