

ness, darting to and fro, even knocking their heads against the glass as if delirious ; then loss of balance, the air bladder loses its power and the victim lies on its side with the tail bent downwards as if contracted by spasm, sometimes for two or three days. I have tried everything ; change into warm water ; change into very cold water, and I once tried the effects of bread crumbs soaked in wine (a remedy used in Germany to revive carp when transported for long distances) but all to no effect and I have now come to the conclusion that man cannot prescribe for the denizens of the water, the conditions of life being with them so utterly different from other animal life. The apparent attack of an epidemic amongst fish, which is known to take place in their natural habitats, is only part of that law of nature which subjects life of every description to attacks upon it.

Goldfish are naturally long lived and I have had specimens for ten years at a time, in perfect health. The limited space of an aquarium seems to dwarf their growth and size, as they certainly do not attain to their full proportions half as rapidly as in open waters. Catfish, when grown too large for their quarters, I have frequently taken to the nearest stream and they swim off as unconcerned as if always accustomed to liberty. An aquarium owner soon comes to regard its inmates like all other pets, and it may be said in their favour that they do not require anything like the attendance needed for other living pets. The loss of them is in certain cases more difficult to replace as you cannot always obtain, at the time, a specimen of the kind perhaps most wanted.

There has been great discussion as to the best aspect in which to place an Aquarium, and opinions are varied, but the conclusion I have arrived at is, that a northern aspect is desirable, a southern aspect is worst, and the western nearly as bad, as the sunlight falling on it materially assists the green coating caused by the growth of *confervæ* on the glass. The bottom, which ought to be, if possible, of slate, should be covered with small pebbles or fine gravel about an inch in depth, leaving a small patch for clean sand. Earth is not required, as water plants mostly grow floating. A few pretty stones or a little rock-work should be added with a part of the latter projecting above the water for the purposes already alluded to, especially if fish only are to be kept, as the latter delight in loitering in the friendly shade of a rock. Besides the pleasing appear-