

## NEGLECTED POINTS.

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If every naturalist were annually to keep a record of all that he sees, confining himself to the branch he most delights in, such proceedings would be of the greatest use both for reference in after years and for comparison with other records. All notes are useful sooner or later if properly kept, and many a little incident, trifling as it may seem at the time, might prove of great value in determining some question of the future. With the extension of settlement, animal life, in its natural state, rapidly disappears. Even is this manifest in the finny tribe, for certain species of fish which years ago abounded in some of our streams are now entirely extinct in those waters, owing to various causes attributable to man's encroachment on nature. Cutting down the forests has materially tended to cut off the old water supply, and creeks which half a century ago teemed with fish, have now dwindled to brooks with no facilities for their former inhabitants. The refuse of mills and factories has also contaminated the water, and indiscriminate slaughter, especially in spawning time, has done the rest. In the inland waters around Ottawa, Canada, several species of fish are recorded in lists published by the Natural History Society, of that place, in the year 1859, inhabiting streams which are now entirely dry, and if the records did not exist the idea of such fish having been there would be ridiculed. Records of annual observation would contribute to show the cause and the time of the extinction or driving away of certain fish. We all well know the causes to which the disappearance of land animals can be attributed, but it is not so in most cases with the denizens of the water, and I would call the attention of brother-naturalists to the importance of recording little facts for the enlightenment of those of the next generation.

The study of fish and of "animal life below the water," generally, is perhaps more neglected by the amateur naturalist than any other object, and yet it will be found, after once commencing it, most fascinating. I have often sat perfectly quiet beside a still pool or beside a shallow stream where at first no life appeared. Very soon an object darts out from under a stone or a log, either after its prey floating down,