



THE SKATE'S WELCOME.\*

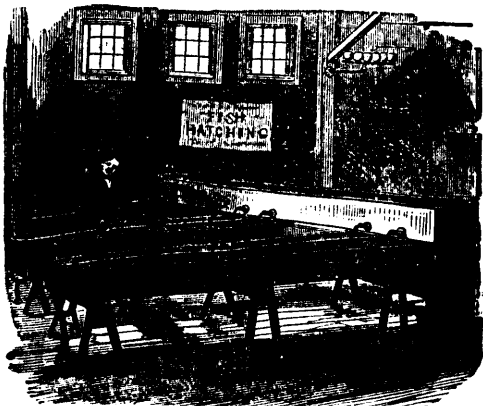
performances of ringing bells, climbing stairs, and bowing to their master.

The Sea-Horse, represented in an idealized character at the head of this article, is eagerly looked for by visitors who discover the object of their search in a tiny ghost-like creature which inhabits one of the small tanks near the fish-hatching apparatus. This animal has a body from four to six inches in length, topped by a head which in outline exactly resembles that of a horse, and has a pair of large brilliant eyes, each of which may be moved independently of the other. The body tapers off into a flexible pointed tail with which they can attach themselves to some object while they dart the head forward to catch their prey. They are intelligent, lively little creatures, and are said to recognize in time the hand that feeds them. Their food consists of small crusta-

ceous worms and eggs of fishes. From their curious appearance and hardy nature they are great favorites with aquarium keepers.

The Japanese Kingiyo is another of the rarities which have been on exhibition at the Aquarium. This curious gold fish with the triple tail was brought from Japan by a gentleman who started for America with a supply of eighty-eight of them. The captain of the steamer on which he travelled had a tank built on purpose for this precious part of his cargo. It was, however, soon found that the motion of the ship dashed the fish against the sides of the tank, a good number being destroyed in this way. A smaller tank was then built, and suspended in a way to counteract the motion of the ship, and river water was taken on board for the fishes' benefit. Notwithstanding all the care bestowed on them,

however, only fifteen arrived in San Francisco, all in weak condition, and of these eight died before they reached their destination in Baltimore. The body is red in color and the tail is a pearly white, presenting, as it rests in the water, the appearance of a fine silken fabric terminating in a delicate fringe. The Japanese claim that the brilliant



FISH HATCHING TROUGHS.