

they then pass and repass it without any further apparent notice. Again when fresh plants are placed in an aquarium, they will swim in and out of them in every direction as if to satisfy themselves that they are really plants. Another curious thing that I have noticed is that, when fresh clean sand is deposited in one spot, they are very fond of balancing themselves over it in an almost perpendicular position, drawing in, by suction, a mouthful of it, which they convey to another spot and there deposit it, carrying on this operation till quite a quantity of the sand has been removed. This apparently curious habit I attribute to their propensity for preparing in their natural condition, a fitting repository for their spawn.

Whether Fish have taste or not, is I think past our comprehension but I am inclined to the idea that they have for we all know that when one bait fails to attract, another will often prove attractive, and the only reason one can naturally assign for that is that it is one more suited to their taste.

I should like to say something about the diseases to which Fish, pent up in aquaria seem subject, but although I have suffered from time to time by apparent epidemics, I am not able to pronounce any deductions from these losses. Only this winter I record the loss, one after another, of some 12 or 14 minnows which I obtained in October last, and which remained thoroughly strong and lively till the early part of January, when they commenced to sicken and die two or three a day till the whole disappeared. The water was regularly changed and they were properly fed, but some evident epidemic had taken possession of the shoal, as happens among the human race. The symptoms were an apparent enlargement of the head, with protrusion of the gills, and loss of color in the tail end of the body. The air bladder was evidently affected as they first kept on the surface, then lost their power of balancing themselves and within twenty-four hours, died. Two small minnows which have occupied the aquarium since the previous winter escaped, and are still alive.

I have noticed that in a majority of the deaths amongst my Goldfish, a peculiar fungus-like growth covers the gills, sometimes both, sometimes only one gill. This seems to come on in the last stage as it does not show when they first sicken. The early symptoms are violent restless.