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It is our aim to always have something nice for the babies. Our price 15c. each.

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STEER Brothers.

Fishes That Live Out of Water.

SOME MORE MISSING LINKS IN EVOLUTION.

To call a man who is out of place "a fish out of water" is insular and unscientific, in fact mediaeval. The modern survey of Nature has discovered a score of species of fishes which can live out of water. When it was first known that all life was in the ocean during at least half the story of life on the earth, many wondered how the evolutionist was going to start the story of land-life. Already, however, the naturalist was supplying the missing links, and to-day we have no difficulty.

There have been Europeans in India and the islands of the Indian Ocean for a couple of centuries; but in the early days they were too busy making money to study the wonders of life in that region. There is, for instance, a wonderful fish called the Climbing Perch which prevents any Anglo-Indian from calling a man a fish out of water.

CLIMBING TREES.

You may, on a hot summer's day, meet a company of these fishes strolling—rather clumsily—across the fields. There pool has dried up, and they seek a "better 'ole." They can live for a day or two out of water, because they have a special chamber in the head for assisting their breathing out of water. Early observers claim that they climb trees occasionally, and even their scientific name (Anabas scandens) sanctions this, but the evidence is not very good.

There is, however, another fish in tropical Asia and Africa which undoubtedly does a little climbing. The bommi, as natives call it, remains on the shore when the tide goes out, hunting whatever the waters have left behind. Its breast-fins are bent like elbow-joints, and are very strong, and by means of these it skips or jumps about the shore. A close observer will, however, notice that it is very apt to retire speedily to a little pool and dip its tail therein. It has a supplementary breathing apparatus in its tail, and it may remain a long time resting on a stone with its tail in the water, its great goggle eyes staring round for some small victim.

LIVING IN TWO WORLDS.

These are what we may call crude experiments in the power of living in two worlds. There are, however, many kinds of fishes with lungs as well as gills, and these show us best how, ages ago, part of the population left the over-crowded ocean and began the story of life on land. We do not think to-day that these are actual survivors of the first fishes to leave the land, but they are relics of a large population which at one time more or less developed the power of living on land.

The best known is the "Burnett Salmon," as it is popularly called, of Queensland. There is, of course, no salmon in Australia, but the "digger" has a facetious way of giving aristocratic British names to native things, and more than one British politician has fallen into the trap and marvelled at the cheapness of "salmon" in Australia. The Ceratodus is a coarser fish, but it is one of the marvels of Nature. It has a lung as well as gills.

The Queensland one-lunger is not properly called a "mud fish," it never lives in the dry mud when a stream ceases to flow. In the Burnett and Mary rivers it lingers in the pools at the bottom of the water, and the water never entirely disappears. It may, however, become so low and foul in the summer that every other type of fish will be killed, while the Ceratodus suffers no more inconvenience than a sewage-man in a crowded Tube. It just rises to the surface now and again, and "spouts" like a miniature whale. Then it fills its one lung with air, and sinks again to the bottom.

TWO LUNGS.

But there is a cousin of the Ceratodus, found over the greater part of Africa, which lives entirely out of water during about six months of the year. It has two lungs in addition to gills. As a rule it is found in the marshes near the rivers. For half the year it gorges on frogs and worms and other delicacies, for it must live on its fat during the long "summer sleep." Its fins are really limbs. They are useless as paddles, and at the bottom of the water. The tail is the propeller.

When the dry season comes, the fish bores down about 18 inches into the mud, coils itself up, and wraps itself in a sort of cocoon made of mucus from its skin. Above its head it makes a sort of lid, to keep out the inquisitive, and it even has the remarkable instinct to make small holes in the lid to let the air through. So it remains sleeping for months, breathing entirely by its lungs. We now know that these lungfishes use their lungs, even during the wet period, in addition to their gills.

WALKING ON THEIR FINS.

Still more advanced are certain fishes of Brazil. In an aquarium they will walk on their fins (which are really limbs) to take bread from the hand of the keeper. Even in the water it does not swim, but wriggles like an eel, its limbs moving like those of a biped. Like its African cousin it spends the dry season asleep in a burrow which it hollows out in the mud. It carefully closes the tube with a plug of clay, through which it bores air-passages. At the return of the waters it pushes out the plug and gaily returns to its feeding. Both the African and American lung-fishes lay their eggs in nests; and they have the further high distinction that it is the papa who guards the eggs and the babies while mother disports herself.

The development of these lungs is simpler than the inexpert would think. All the higher fishes have air-bladders in their bodies. They are submarines, and used to alter the weight of the body by compressing or enlarging this air-bladder. The lungs are adaptions of the air-bladder, which is often double, and connected with the gullet.—John o' London's Weekly.

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Men's Overcoat Bargains
Men's Overcoats in Heavy Grey Melton and Tweed, double breast, storm collar, half belt; sizes 34 to 44.
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Men's Tweed Vests in plain and fancy stripes; made of good material and trimmings; sizes 3, to 7.
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Men's Homespun Pants in Heavy Grey, Brown and Striped; splendid Pants for outdoor work. All sizes at the following
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Men's Heavy Winter Vests in fancy stripes and plain colored.
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Men's Corduroy Pants in Dark Brown, well made, good trimmings.
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