

were perpetually doing battle like knights of old, charging on each other most furiously, with the final result one morning of my finding both dead on the surface of the water, one of them having half swallowed the other, but the latter in the operation choked his conqueror, with the result mentioned. A subsequent specimen of mine was in the habit of secreting himself between two stones, with part of his body only exposed, as if watching everything. There is apparently much of the snake in their habits, and the same timidity exists in each. The least noise disturbs their equanimity and thunder seems particularly to affect my specimen. Although he occasionally moved round in the daytime, night was the time for his activity, and the artificial light of a room seemed in no way to interfere with his apparent recognition of time. One eel at a time affords ample opportunities for studying the habits of that family.

One of the most interesting fish to watch, is the cat-fish, which I am seldom without, but it must be kept well fed, and even then the fins and tails of the other fish bear evidence of its attacks upon them. It is astonishing what an amount of food a cat-fish will swallow. You can watch his stomach swelling out to such an extent that it presents the appearance of a fowl's crop when fed to repletion. After he has thoroughly bloated himself out, he generally settles down, under or beside a stone, and lies there in a sort of comatose state for some time, closely resembling in this the serpent family. As soon as the effects of his meal have passed off, he becomes one of the most restless of the occupants of the aquarium, and swims backward and forward and up and down, incessantly, as if calling attention to his wants. I have not the slightest doubt that, after a time, fish know intuitively to a certain extent, when feeding time comes and the party that feeds them. I think that cat-fish are affected by, and feel coming changes of weather, but one cannot deduce conclusions from observations taken in a room where the temperature is probably uniform, as compared with the natural temperature out of doors.

Sticklebacks I have had in abundance, but more than two at a time become a nuisance. It is a perpetual warfare all round, especially if the males predominate. They, together with sun fish, are, probably the most pugnacious of all fish, showing hostility even to my finger when