

POND-SNAILS.

Collect pond-snails from ponds, brooks and streams, and keep them in an aquarium. They are easily kept if supplied with water plants, and are interesting subjects for study, and for comparison with land-snails.



Fig. 5. Group of Living Pond-Snails. Natural Size.

They have but one pair of tentacles, the feelers, at the base of which are the eyes. They feed on water-plants, and respire air. You will often see them come to the surface to breath. Watch the movement of the "foot" as they travel up the sides of the glass, or journey on the underside of the water-film, with the body downward, from one side of the aquarium to the other.

There are three common genera of pond-snails,—*Limnaea*, with a right-handed spiral coil (*i. e.* if the tip of the spire is towards the observer, the coil turns with the hands of a clock); *Planorbis*, with a flat watch-spring like spiral, or discoid shell; and *Physa*, with a left-handed spiral shell.

SLUGS.

One frequently finds in gardens and orchards, and in moist woods, especially under the bark and in the decaying trunks of fallen trees, forms that are very much like snails, but without shells. Such naked forms are called slugs. In some, the shell is entirely wanting, in others it is represented by a thin calcareous plate in the mantle that covers the back. In both cases they are regarded as degenerate forms.

Watch them as they move along. Which do they more closely resemble, land-snails or pond-snails? How many pairs of tentacles have they? Where are the eyes situated?

Collect slugs and keep them in cages for observation. Feed them upon a variety of garden plants, such as lettuce leaves, radish, cabbage leaves, pieces of turnip, etc., in order to show what havoc they may make in gardens. A good demonstration cage is made by placing a lantern chimney over some young growing beans, covering the upper end securely with mosquito bar or cheese cloth. Five or six slugs in such a cage will soon show you their special treatment for young beans. In the same way try them with other young plants.

At this season of the year the egg masses of slugs are found associated with them in moist situations under boards, sticks and other refuse. Collect several masses of eggs. Of what color are they? Keep in moist situations, as near natural conditions as possible. They are said to hatch in from two to three weeks at ordinary fall temperature. Those laid later probably do not hatch till spring.

[Cuts illustrating this article are presented through the kindness of Messrs. Ginn & Co., Boston, Mass., from their publications: "Elementary Entomology," and "General Zoology."]

If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself alone. A man, sir, should keep his friendship in a constant repair.—SAMUEL JOHNSON.

"If any man love the labor of any trade, apart from any question of success or fame, the gods have called him."—R. L. STEVENSON.

Happy is he who has learned this one thing—to do the plain duty of the moment quickly and cheerfully, whatever it may be."