

(*Gasterosteus*), of which there are several varieties, is hardly a fish for the general collection; although of exquisite form, it is so fierce, especially in the breeding season, that it incessantly attacks the other fishes in the aquarium, and in a short time deprives them of more or less of their tails, making the unfortunate victims literally top-heavy, swimming with their tails, or rather what were once tails, much higher than their heads,

Sticklebacks should have a tank devoted exclusively to them, and this especially if we wish them to build a nest, one of their peculiar accomplishments. Early in the spring the sticklebacks may be found in great numbers in the small ditches which drain the salt-water marshes. The male is easily distinguished from the female by its deep red color around the gills and its blue eyes, while the female has only the silvery scales. A pair taken at random usually live peaceably together; if it is in the right season they will soon look about for materials for a nest, taking bits of water-plants, and even coming to the surface for small pieces of straw and sticks; with such materials they build a round nest about as large as a small English walnut, hollow in the centre, and having two holes large enough to admit the fish on either side; the nest is built upon the branches of some of the water-plants. While the female is laying the eggs, the male acts as guard, fiercely driving away anything coming within a certain radius of the nets. When the eggs are laid they resemble small globules of wet sago more than anything else. The female will be seen to fan these eggs quite often with her fins; this is probably to give them fresh water and to prevent any sediment collecting upon them. After a fortnight or so, instead of eggs, we see in different parts of the tank what at first look like very minute gold spangles as large as the head of a small pin. On closer examination we find that they are the eyes of a very small fish. Their growth is so slow that in order to preserve them it will be well to remove them to a small tank by themselves, where they can be fed by placing a piece of raw beef on the end of a string, and hanging it over the edge of the tank into the water until it is turned white, when another piece can be introduced.—The stickleback, as also the minnow, is easily accustomed to fresh water by freshening the salt water gradually until it is quite fresh and then introducing the fish into the tank. The stickleback is not the only fresh-water nest-building fish. Wood mentions a curious fish, found in tropical America, called by the natives the