

fishes were repulsive to him. Most people find the finny tribes attractive whether gliding gracefully about in an aquarium, or tugging at the end of a baited line, or smoking hot on a dinner plate. Hence a book on fishes, especially if their metallic and varied forms be artistically depicted in illustrative plates, is coveted by everybody. It is surprising how deficient our Canadian literature is in this respect. We have almost unrivalled fish and fisheries, yet how few Canadian books to tell us about them. The issue of this handsome, well-illustrated work by the Board of Education, as one of the Series of Vertebrate Lists issued with the *imprimatur* of the Minister of Education, Toronto, is on every account notable.

Professor Ramsay Wright long ago prepared, as an appendix to the Ontario Game and Fish Commission Report, a description of economic fishes with plates, and it has been of high utility and value. The Fisheries Department of Ontario has also published more or less popular descriptions and plates of fishes in its annual reports. The most of the plates in these works have been reproductions of the well-known United States Fishery Bureau figures, which have been most widely and generously loaned by the Washington authorities. The late Mr. Monipetit, of Montreal, issued a book on our fresh-water fishes, but it had little scientific value.

Mr. Nash's book is very beautifully printed and contains 40 original drawings of fish, 32 being full-page plates and 8 small drawings in the text. The author has long been known for his skill as an artist and readers of the *Canadian Magazine* have been delighted with his sketches of birds and fishes. The present work shows him not only as an artist working *con amore*, but an accurate student of nature. The text is thoroughly scientific, and owes much, as all works on North American fishes must do, to the classic volumes of Jordan and Evermann. Had Mr. Nash relied more upon his own descriptive powers, as an ardent naturalist, his work would have had increased value. The technical descriptions by the famous American authors often hide rather than reveal the characters of the fish described. Mr. Nash might himself have described the common eel, for example, as "serpent-like in form, tail portion laterally flattened" but in this list the description of the genus runs "body elongate, sub-terete, compressed posteriorly, covered with embedded scales which are linear in form and placed obliquely, some of them at right angles to the others." The common bow-fin or lake dog-fish (*Amia*) has the "body oblong, compressed behind, terete anteriorly, head subconical anteriorly bluntish, slightly depressed, its superficial bones corrugated and very hard,