

held towards them under water, their fins and spines bristling up like the hairs on a bull-dog's neck, when excited. They snap at everything, and it is impossible to keep any larvæ in an aquarium any length of time if these fish are joint occupants. I have read of sticklebacks building their nests and breeding among the weeds in an aquarium, but I never witnessed any operation of this kind myself, as I frequently changed my tenants for the sake of watching the habits of the different kinds of fish from time to time brought to me, with the exception of the gold-fish which I have always retained.

Bass, I find to be for the most part, nocturnal in their habits, lying comparatively still the greater part of the day. Like the sun-fish, they are very tenacious of the spot they select, which they occasionally sail quietly round and round as if guarding, and woe to the unwary fish who may venture to settle down in the quarters they have chosen. The small brook sucker, I have kept and watched with a great deal of interest. They are useful scavengers, cleaning up, by suction, everything they come in contact with at the bottom, rolling it over their palate, swallowing whatever suits their taste, and thus disposing of a good deal of refuse matter which otherwise gives considerable trouble in getting rid of. These fish are, however, of what I might style, too delicate a constitution to be recommended as permanent occupants, Accustomed as they are to running water, and evidently given to roaming in streams, they seemed to suffer when pent up in a small space and except for temporary observation, I would not recommend their introduction into any private aquarium. Crayfish, in the same way, are very unsatisfactory occupants, and I never was able to keep one alive for any length of time.

One of the most interesting fish that I ever had in my aquarium was a small gar-pike, which was caught in a scoop net at the foot of the locks here in Ottawa and brought to me. This fish lived for several weeks, and after his death I placed him in spirits, where he still exists, He was most unsociable, turning his back upon all other fish that approached him, accepting the apparent overtures of none. The only surviving remnant of the fossil bony-scaled Ganoids of the Devonian rocks and belonging to the Mesozoic period, his pedigree probably caused him to look down on the finny tribe of the present age as his