

THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

VOL. XX.

OTTAWA, MARCH, 1907.

No. 12

SOME CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT FISHES.

(Based on an address delivered before the "Unity Club.")

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The subject of this article is : certain strange facts concerning the habits and structure of fishes. A goodly sized volume might be devoted to this subject to do it justice ; therefore a few singular facts only are given here, under distinctive headings.

FISHES THAT CAN LIVE FOR A PROLONGED TIME OUT OF WATER.

The November, 1901, issue of the OTTAWA NATURALIST contained a short article of mine, entitled : "An African Dipnoid Fish " treating of a group of fishes distinguished from all others by " the double character of the respiratory organisation : these remarkable fishes breathing not only under water by gills, but at times when the waters dry up, atmospheric air by rudimentary lungs " ; and a succinct account of this dipnoid group is contained in that article.

But the lung-breathers are not the only kind of fishes which can live for a longer or shorter time out of water. There are others whose gills are provided with accessory organs for retaining water, so that those fishes are supplied with oxygen during their sojourn on land. A well-known instance of this is the Climbing Perch of India, a fish which leaves the water and walks by the aid of its spines over land. It even climbs trees ; a fact alluded to by Herbert Spencer in his " Principles of Biology," and Daldorf in a memoir communicated long ago to the Linnean