

**HOW A FISH COMES TO THE SURFACE.**—A curious physiological discovery has been made in the past year by Professor Bohr, of Copenhagen, in regard to the mode of storage by which a fish accumulates so much oxygen in the air that distends the swimming or air bladder. The air contained therein has a percentage of oxygen that may rise to as much as 85, an amount much in excess of the percentage in atmospheric air. Professor Bohr tapped the air bladder of a codfish and drew off the gas by means of a trocar and airtight syringe. The gas had 52 per cent. of oxygen. In a few hours the air bladder was refilled, apparently by a process of secretion of gas from the blood in the capillaries on the wall of the bladder. In one experiment the gas thus secreted had 80 per cent. of oxygen. When the nerves connected with the organ were severed the secretion ceased, and the organ was not refilled. It thus appears that when a fish descends to a great depth, and his body is reduced in size by increased pressure of the water about him, he is able to attain his former size and rise by secreting the gas he needs, and not by absorbing it from the water. Support is thus given to the theory that the gaseous exchanges that occur in the lungs of animals are not purely physical.

**MEDICAL ANTIQUITIES.**—One of the most interesting features of the meeting of the British Medical Association is the collection of medical antiquities formed in Italy by Dr. Luigi Sambon.

The chief interest in the collection of surgical instruments lies in the light thrown by them upon Roman skill in surgery. It is clear from the number, variety, and delicacy of the knives, forceps, and specula used that the ancient Romans must have possessed a high degree of operative skill. A

collection of ophthalmic instruments is particularly striking. They were originally described by a learned German as instruments used in sculpture, although the tomb in which they were found was known to be that of an ophthalmic surgeon from the inscription. There is no doubt about their real character. The handles are made of bronze, and the blades are of iron, which has, however, in most cases rusted away. A beautiful little pocket medicine chest of bronze with four compartments is also exhibited, and glass ointment pots, as iridescent as mother-of-pearl, together with a number of miscellaneous curiosities, including safety pins of precisely the modern patent shape, barbed fish hooks, charms, toys, a most ingenious baby's bottle, and a noble bronze horse-bit of Etruscan work. But perhaps the greatest curiosity is a lump of solidified Falernian or the dregs thereof found at the bottom of an amphora.

The collection will be exhibited next year at the International Medical Congress, for which Dr. Sambon has been commissioned by the Italian Government to write a history of medicine, but it is Mr. Oppenheimer's intention to offer it eventually to the Royal College of Surgeons.

“Magnify your office and recognize it as rightfully claiming the whole effort of your manhood, the most skillfully trained intellect and the utmost grace that pure and healthful living, constant prayer, and hopeful self-control can secure to you. No work makes so constant a demand on all our best energies, and none, therefore, yields so constant a return of keen and healthful happiness.”—*Marcus Dods*.

In how many bright books there is no God treading on the high places; nay, there are no high places of the earth for God to tread upon!—*Vigil*.