No, the saddest aspect of the matter is this: that thousands of human beings can be interested in a treatment of the subject which restricts itself to a recital of the practical application —while no interest can be aroused in such a presentation of the subject as makes it a part of true human knowledge.

A. MCGILL.

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ELECTRICAL FISHES.

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Some recent researches have added much to our knowledge of electrical phenomena in fishes. That certain fishes possess electrical properties has been known from classical times, and Oppian, with provertical poetic liberty, describes the shock produced by one of these creatures as passing along the angler's line and rod into the fisherman's body:—

> "His arm of sense bereft,
> Down drops the idle rod; his prey is left,
> Not less benumbed than if he felt the whole
> Of frost's severest rage about the Arctic pole.

Pliny ventured the opinion that these mysterious powers were utilized in killing victims for food, and there is some ground for that view. Fishes classed as electrical belong to very widely separated orders and families but the total number of species is small.

Amongst the Sharks and Rays, the Torpedinidae and two or three species of Skate, alone, are known as electrical. Out of nine or ten thousand species of Teleosteans or Bony Fishes, not more than a dozen possess these remarkable organs,