

# MAKING PETS OF FISHES

## SOME BARE SPECIMENS SEEN IN NEW-YORK AQUARIUMS.

**GOLD FISH FROM JAPAN WORTH \$125 A PIECE FOR BREEDING PURPOSES—CHINESE VARIETIES THAT ARE VERY HARD TO GET—ADMIRAL AMMEN'S EXPERIMENTS.**

Lovers of household pets who find delight in rare fishes of beautiful color and form are rapidly increasing in number. During the last year the salt water aquarium has been more in demand in this city and in different parts of the country than ever before. It has been found to be as easy to make this kind of aquarium self-sustaining—that is, arrange it so that a change of water or artificial aeration is unnecessary—as with a fresh-water aquarium.

An advantageous feature of the marine aquarium also is that a great number of interesting specimens can be accommodated in a very small space, and can be kept successfully for a number of years without requiring much attention. Moreover, the specimens in a marine aquarium are less common than those usually found in the ordinary fresh-water aquarium.

A well-known society woman who lives on Fifth Avenue, near Fifty-ninth Street, has recently kept a small imported glass vessel on a little table in her drawing room near the window, which has attracted considerable attention on account of the beautiful groupings and great variety of growing seaweeds therein, and because of the display of the specimens of sea-urchins—those curious-looking members of the family of radiates, with spines sticking out all over their bodies, something like the hedgehog.

This lady has taken a great deal of pleasure in collecting living anemones all along the coast, and she has brown, yellow, red, white, and salmon-colored varieties. On several occasions she has entertained callers by feeding her pets with small shrimps and the tiny white crab that is found inside the oyster shell. After eating one of these little crustaceans the anemone would rise up to almost twice its normal length and display its fine array of tentacles, with which its food is grasped to be carried to the sac which serves as a stomach. Some of the anemones in the aquarium reproduced, and one point of the rock-work on one side of the tank was recently literally covered with tiny specks of various colors, and these were the spawn of the anemones.

But the specimen in her collection which this lady has taken the most pride in has been an oddly-formed piece of living coral which she obtained off the coast of Massachusetts. It has become so acclimated and accustomed to the artificial method of feeding which she has employed that the tiny polyps come forth to be fed when she agitates the water in the vicinity of their homes.

Mrs. Burke-Roche's two little boys have two fine specimens of the Chinese nymph, which has a peculiarly dwarfed body, handsomely marked red and white, and fins of an abnormal size.

Thomas Arnold has a pair of very small fringed-tail gold fish half an inch long, of which fully one-quarter is caudal fin, widely divided with four flukes. These fishes are the young of a very expensive pair of Japanese fringe-tails imported and raised in New-York. The little mites are now worth \$20, but when they attain an adult size their value for breeding purposes will be over \$100. Both fish would easily go into an ordinary vial. Their tails are so heavy that they can hardly swim in a horizontal position. They are unusually intelligent even for gold fish, but that is because they were raised from special stock by the Japanese from one generation to another. The parents of these fishes attract considerable attention on account of the exceeding fineness and great length of their tails. The sum of \$200 was recently offered for them by a well-known New-Yorker and refused.

It is very difficult to breed this class of fish and produce specimens perfect in form, fin, and color. For this reason the Japanese have obtained very high prices for representative specimens. Among those bred by Mark Samuel have been noticed many with the dorsal fin fore-shortened and sometimes missing, which gives the fish a very unusual appearance and prevents its steadying itself in swimming. Some of these fish are without any anal fin, making the tail appear as though it were attached to the body by some artificial means.

One specimen out of about twenty-five raised in one tank was hatched with only one eye, and it is remarkable how alert he is about dinner time every day and how he holds his own among his little brothers and sisters.

It is not generally known that gold fish spawn tiny yellow eggs, about the size of a pin-head, which are glutinous and attach themselves to the water plants in the aquarium, where they hatch in from three to eight days, according to the temperature and condition of the water. The little fish when first hatched are placed in small jars operated on the self-sustaining principle and put where they will get the early morning sun. After the yolk sac, from which they obtain nourishment soon after hatching, has been absorbed, they are fed with particles of beef liver, raw beef, and water-prepared fish food. Tiny crustacea, such as the water flea, water shrimp, cyclops, &c., which are taken from a small "feeding reservoir" in a "dip tube," are also dropped in the water near the fish.

William H. Hays has a valuable specimen of the Chinese comet goldfish, which he obtained a year and a half ago. During that time it has developed into an ideal specimen of its kind. The spread of caudal fin from tip to tip is nearly five inches in length, with the flukes deeply divided. This fish requires considerable space when swimming, and presents somewhat the appearance of a creature moving through the water with the aid of large sails. All the other fish in the aquarium are afraid of it for some reason or other, except a male macropod from India, a curiously-marked fish, which apparently does not fear anything that swims. The comet fish mentioned is now worth \$25.

During the last two years there has been a great scarcity of Chinese comet fish, both in this country and in Europe, and to-day there are probably not over a dozen fish of this variety and of pure breed in New-York. Unfortunately, those specimens which were introduced here the year of the comet were placed in private ponds and crossed with the ordinary American goldfish until the characteristics of the breed were finally lost. The double-tailed Chinese fishes, if left to breed in American ponds without the introduction of pure imported stock from time to time, will revert to the long-bodied, single-tailed variety which is so familiar.

Mark Samuel has now in his possession a pair of Japanese telescope fish with eyes more prominent than those of a frog. They have a dwarf body, three tails, and are very dark brown in color. They are so awkward and hideously ugly that it is difficult to believe they belong to the goldfish family. They are the property of a man who is traveling, who paid \$250 for them.

Prof. H. S. Greenough recently took with him to Paris living specimens of the curious-tailed batrachians found in Ohio, notably the *Necturus lateralis*, or water dog, for the purpose of trying to breed them under artificial conditions in the Jardin des Plantes, where they have specially-constructed out-door tanks. Master Percy Forbes-Leith, son of A. J. Forbes-Leith, took a pair of these creatures to his father's castle in Scotland last Spring, to discover, if possible, how they breed.

In an aquarium in East Sixteenth Street is a valuable pair of white Mexican *Amblystoma axoloti* with the exterior gills so well developed that the circulation of the blood corpuscles can readily be seen with the aid of a small pocket magnifying glass. These tailed batrachians live altogether in the dark, and if they were exposed for any length of time to the sunlight they would change their color entirely and become dark brown, like the axoloti usually found. On account of the transparency of their skin, the ramifications of the blood-red veins are beautifully displayed in their four feet. In an adjoining aquarium is a small goldfish of a remarkable appearance. The gill cover is semi-transparent, permitting the blood-red fringes of the gill proper to be partly seen through it. The body of the fish is entirely devoid of scales, enabling one to see the heart, the divided air bladder, by means of which the fish are able to rise or sink at will, and the entire vertebral column. The effect is very curious. The observer appears to be looking at the outside and the inside of the fish at the same time. This is a special breed very popular in Germany, but rare in this country. It is known as the scaleless goldfish.

J. Egmont Schermerhorn has in his aquarium a pair of intensely-red Japanese fantail fishes which weigh over a pound each and are worth over \$100. Admiral Ammen of the United States Navy was among the first to introduce these fish in America, and for years he maintained a number of valuable house aquaria and private ponds. He learned that when the Japanese transported rare ornamental fish any distance they carried them in earthenware vessels and fanned the water to aerate it. By following the same method he was enabled to bring many valuable specimens to America.

In his Westchester County home James F. Sutton has a large French aquarium of marble and glass overlooking the lawn, and in it are tropical aquatic plants and valuable varieties of goldfish. The water is supplied from a spring. Mrs. R. Heber Newton, wife of the well-known clergyman, at a reception at her home, not long ago, displayed in a corner of the hallway a large crystal globe mounted on bronze and standing nearly five feet high. It contained a collection of Chinese and Japanese fish, with aquatic plants from South America, England, Mexico, and Germany. They were arranged in filtered water so clear that the whole looked like a miniature Swiss lake dropped down into New-York.

It is estimated that of Chinese and Japanese fishes in New-York that are worth \$10 there are about 200; of Chinese, Japanese, and Mexi-

can fishes worth \$25 perhaps twenty, not more than ten that are worth over \$25, and only four worth \$100 a pair.

The popularity of valuable fishes as pets is increasing, partly because they cause so little trouble. If their feeding is neglected for a day or two they find food in their natural element on account of the plants and snails there. The ideal aquarium, however, is one in which no feeding is necessary, which can be sealed up tight, excluding all air and requiring only exposure to the light.

## TO RECLAIM A CEMETERY.

### CONGREGATION SHAARAI ZEDEK TO REMOVE ITS DEAD TO BAYSIDE, L. I.

Another old cemetery on Manhattan Island will soon be reclaimed, unless unlooked-for complications ensue. The Trustees of the Jewish congregation Shaarai Zedek have resolved to remove the bodies from their old burying ground on the south side of Eighty-eighth Street, between Park and Madison Avenues, and if everything moves along smoothly the work of disinterment will begin next March.

The synagogue in which this congregation worships was established in 1838 in White Street. Two years later, in 1840, the membership having increased very rapidly, it was decided to purchase a burying ground, and two lots were secured for cemetery purposes in what was then an outlying district on the east side of town, on Eighty-eighth Street. In 1845 the congregation moved its place of worship from White Street to 35 and 40 Henry Street, and there the synagogue has remained ever since. In its new location the membership increased so rapidly that it was found expedient, in 1862, to abandon the Eighty-eighth Street cemetery, and a plot of twenty-two acres was purchased by the congregation at Bayside, near Jamaica, L. I.

No effort was made to do anything with the old cemetery until 1880, when some of the more progressive members of the synagogue proposed to disinter the bodies lying there and remove them to Bayside. This plan aroused violent opposition on the part of people who had relatives buried in the place, and they threatened to fight the removal in the courts if it was attempted to carry the proposed plan out. In consequence of these threats and in order to avoid a public scandal the idea was given up, and it was allowed to slumber until a few weeks ago, when it was revived by a peculiar circumstance.

A speculative builder purchased the corner lot, adjoining the cemetery, which is screened from the street by a high brick wall. As soon as the title to this property had passed, the builder laid claim to a strip of thirteen inches, on which stood a brick wall dividing the cemetery from the adjoining property. The Trustees of the synagogue disputed this claim, but the builder calmly proceeded to excavate for a foundation, and incidentally he undermined the dividing wall so that it fell inward, scattering heaps of brick and mortar over the old graves. This led the Trustees to revive the scheme of removal.

Under the Jewish law it is not permissible to disturb the remains of the dead unless it is found impossible to keep their resting place in good order, or unless the burying ground is in a public place. It was under this law that the threats to carry the matter into the courts had been made in 1880, and but for the incident of the falling wall, the same grounds would hold good at present. When the privacy of the cemetery was so rudely intruded upon, however, by the encroachment of the building process, it was decided by the Trustees that it was time to think of removing the bodies, of which about 300 are interred in the place.

The matter was submitted to the rabbi, the Rev. Dr. Zinsler, who gave it as his opinion that the Trustees were correct. But to make certain, he requested the advice of Chief Rabbi Joseph, and the latter called a rabbinical council, which decided as Dr. Zinsler had. This council was held last week, and the Trustees at once proceeded to take the necessary preliminary steps for inaugurating the work of removal. Public notice was given of the plan through newspaper advertisements, and at yesterday's services in the synagogue Dr. Zinsler announced the plans of the Trustees from the pulpit. Next Saturday the announcement will be repeated, and then the Trustees will go into court to get the necessary order for the work.

Some opposition is expected, but the Trustees hope to overcome it without trouble. The congregation Rodoph Sholom of East Sixty-third Street and Lexington Avenue, which purchased the two lots adjoining the Shaarai Zedek Cemetery for burying purposes about forty-five years ago, will also take steps to remove the dead who lie buried there as soon as the work of the other synagogue is under way. The lots are worth at present about \$20,000 apiece, but it will be some years before they can be sold under the laws of the two synagogues.

## CONVERTED AT THE POLLS.

### WHY GEORGE T. QUINN VOTED A STRAIGHT DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

The conversion of George T. Quinn of 9 West Eighty-sixth Street, and a member of the Republican Reciprocity Club, from the vague theories of Republicanism to the sound principles of Democracy on election day, was as sudden but as sincere as that of Saul of Tarsus. Mr. Quinn, pursued and persecuted by Davenport's ignorant Marshals, who thought he must be an Irishman and consequently a Democrat, because of his name, changed his political faith and, throwing away the Republican ticket, which he had always voted, entered into the Democratic fold, and, swelling the great majority by one, helped to defeat McKinleyism.

Mr. Quinn's conversion was partially due to the exertions of Isaac Fromme, a lawyer of 287 Broadway, who met him in the hands of the Philistines, and, like a good Samaritan, healed his wounds and sent him on his way rejoicing.

Mr. Fromme was working on election day as a member of the Tammany Law Committee in the Tenth Election District of the Twenty-third Assembly District. He met near the polls a young man in charge of two of Davenport's Brigadier Generals. The man said his name was George T. Quinn, and that he resided at 9 West Eighty-sixth Street in the Ninth Election District. He had gone to vote at the polling place of that district when he was stopped and challenged by a Deputy Marshal. Mr. Fromme proposed to obtain bail for Quinn, and to go with him to the polling place and let him swear as to his place of residence.

The Deputy Marshal refused and said his prisoner must be taken to the headquarters of the Republican Club at the Hotel Endicott, Eighty-second Street and Eighth Avenue. He refused to allow Mr. Fromme even to see the warrant on which Quinn was arrested. Mr. Quinn on the way to the headquarters protested against the outrage, said he was an American citizen, a Republican, and intended to vote for Harrison and Reid.

The Deputy Marshal at once said there must be a mistake in the case, as he had thought Mr. Quinn was a Tammany man.

At headquarters the Deputy Marshal, who was then desirous of letting his prisoner go, told a man named Green, a Deputy Supervisor in a blue badge, that Quinn was a Republican, and, therefore, there was some mistake.

Mr. Fromme, however, insisted that he should act as counsel for Quinn, procure bail for him, and see the matter through.

Quinn was taken to 9 West Eighty-sixth Street, in the basement of which he lives. The party found Mrs. Quinn there.

"What is my name?" asked Quinn.

"George T. Quinn," answered his wife.

"Who am I?" he demanded.

"My husband," replied Mrs. Quinn.

"Where am I at?" asked Quinn.

"At your own home," replied his spouse.

"Then let me go to the polls. Let us go on," exclaimed Quinn.

The party marched into the street. At Eighty-sixth Street and Columbus Avenue a carriage came up and they were stopped. In the carriage was seated the Republican Supervisor, who insisted that Mr. Quinn should ride with him to the polling place.

Quinn waited there until Mr. Fromme arrived, and then, in the presence of the Supervisor, the Deputy Marshals, and the assembled crowd, he waived his allegiance to the Republican Party.

"Gentlemen," said he, "I vote the Tammany ticket. I will not vote for a Force bill. I have seen the application of that measure and I have had enough of it. Cleveland is my candidate."

Then he handed in a straight Democratic ticket.

Mr. Quinn will not stop at this. The matter of his arrest is in the hands of the District Attorney, and both criminal and civil proceedings will be taken against Deputy Supervisor Green and his men. The fact that Mr. Green allowed Quinn to go without bail when he discovered he was going to vote the Republican ticket will receive a share of attention from the authorities.