

MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL... **3**... No.

1

...August...19 **50**

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY**

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

All Enquiries:

Hon. Sec.: H. A. GILES, 72, SANDRINGHAM ROAD, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

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SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARISTS SOCIETY.

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

Vol. 3. No 1. August. 1950,

The Society meets- at 7.45.p.m. on the First and Third Monday in each Month at :-

THE GIRL GUIDES HALL,
Corner of Electric Avenue and Westborough Road,
Westcliff,

EDITORIAL.

Exception has been taken to my comments re 'Goldfish Bowls' in the last issue of the Journal, certain people, taking those comments as a personal matter, This, of course, is an entirely wrong view-point — the remarks were general, applicable to anyone in the hobby or entering the hobby.

Similar pleas for the abolition of these receptacles have been made recently in the Aquatic Press, and also by the Federation of British Aquatic Societies; everyone who has the welfare of the fishes at heart will do his, or her utmost to deter any budding Aquarist from the use of the bowl for goldfishes

.-Providing the bowl is not filled with water to the brim (so that as large a surface as possible is obtained), a few Guppies are probably as happy in this receptacle as in a small tank. The danger here lies in the fact that anyone starting this way may increase the number and species of his tropical fishes without improving their living conditions, and ultimately may try to keep coldwater fishes in the same bowl. It is extremely unfortunate that the Editorial has caused hard feelings, but, I reiterate the use of goldfish bowls is to be deplored and all Aquarists should endeavour, not only to provide adequate space for their own fishes, but to persuade others to do the same.

C. J. Saunders.
President.

HOME AQUARIUM COMPETITION.

The final Judging of the Home Aquaria Competition was completed at the end of June. The Judges agreed that there was a great improvement in the general appearance and maintenance of the Tanks, The points awarded by the three Judges on their two visits- were averaged, and the results are as follows'.~

1,	G. Cooke.....	90½ points.
2,	Mrs. P. Sullivan.	89 points.
3,	R Scorah. (Jr.)	87¼ points.
	E.Clark	87¼ points.

Congratulations to the winners, better luck next time to the 'unplaced`.

C. J. Saunders,

COMMENT.

May I just add a word here, first of congratulation to the winners, secondly to all the entrants who help to make any competition a success. Lastly the Judges, Mr. Saunders, Mr.Day, and Mr, Brooks, our thanks are due to them, for it was at times, a tedious job, and I feel that the closeness of the points shows how well they did the job, I am glad to see a Junior in the first three, in open competition with Seniors ~ this should be an incentive to the others,

H, A. Giles. Hon.Sec,

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM OUR HON. LIBRARIAN.

I have been acked by our Hon. Librarian,, Mr. M. C.Mash, to make a very firm appeal to Members to return Library Books more promptly. These Books are expensive, end therefore limited in number. It follows therefore, that if they are not returned after the two weeks- allowed, some other Member is still without a Book he may be wanting badly.

There is a Rule in being, to the effect that a fine of two shillings will be imposed for late return of Books, This has, so far, not been invoked, but we regret that in the interest of other Members,we shall have to be firmer about this5 Rule in future.

H.A.Giles.Hon. Sec.

GENETICS, 1,

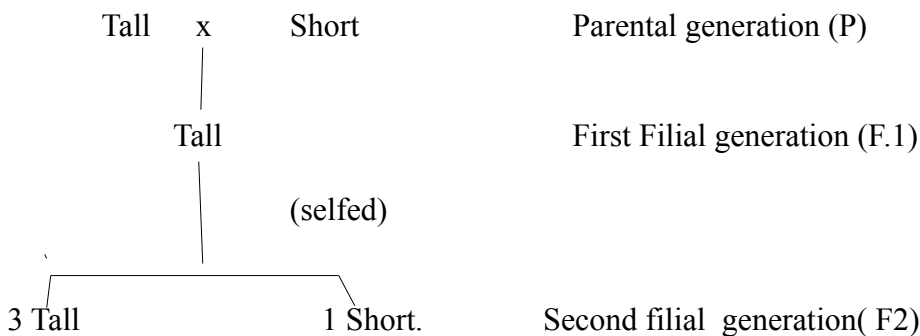
By R. Edwards.

(This is a long looked-for article on a very interesting subject and we are grateful to Mr. Edwards, for the pains he has taken with it. ,It will be published in THREE PARTS.) H. A. G.

Having heard a few confused and erroneous ideas about Genetics in general, and Heredity in particular, at the Society meetings I have decided to try to confuse the issue still further, by attempting to explain, simply(?) what it is all about. I very much fear, that in simplifying the subject, I shall distort the facts out of their true perspective, If this happens, and I sincerely hope that it does not ~ those of you who already know anything about Genetics must bear with me, and those of you who don't know anything about it, won't be any the wiser, so it won't matter much.

Briefly,then, Genetics is the study; of inheritance, and was first started by an Austrian Abbot Gregor Mendel,not quite 100 years ago. His experiments were done on the inheritance of various characteristics of plants. For all his experiments he used culinary peas, and used plants varying as much as possible in the same characteristics, e.g., size, colour of seed, etc.. He found various constant ratios of the differences in the same characteristic, in the numbers of offspring, when two plants were bred together, and on these ratios he founded his Laws -if one thing is assured ;~ Each of the two parents contribute equally to the hereditary constitution of the offspring.

He found that if he crossed a tall plant with a short one,then all the offspring from the first cross, were tall. If he then "selfed" one of these, i.e., bred two of this generation together, he got a definite ratio of tall plants to short ones ~ a ratio of three tall plants to one short. This may be explained in diagrammatic form:-



(It must be borne in mind, that the figures given in the F. 2, generation, are proportional, and not actual numbers.)

continued overleaf

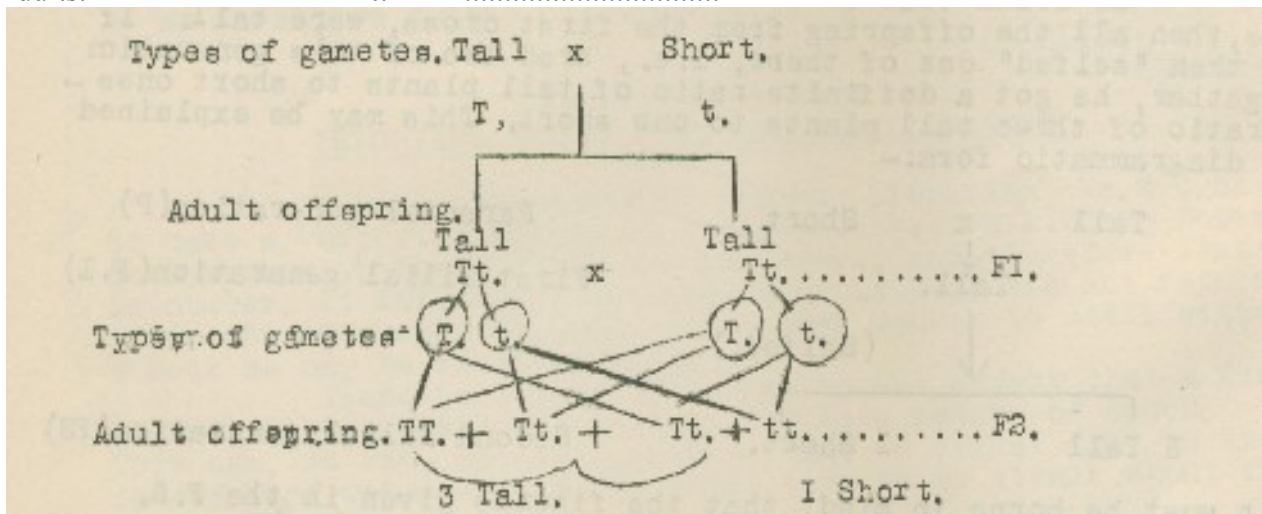
GENETICS 1. By R.Edwards.

Contd. from overleaf.

In his original experiments, Mendel further investigated the individuals of the F₂ generation, and he found that they did not all behave in the same way on selfing - all the short plants bred true to shortness, but of the tall ones, only one in three bred true to tallness, The other two behaved in exactly the same way as the F₁ generation did on selfing, producing 3 tall to 1 short. From these experiments Mendel deduced that the Gametes, ('sex cells — e.g. male sperms or pollen, and female ova, or ovules.) carried something which was responsible for the appearance in the adult plant, of the particular character. This "something" he called a "Gaminal unit" or "Factor" (these are now known as- "Genes") and he maintained that these gaminal units remained unaltered in the gametes, even when the character did not appear in the adult, as, for example, the unit for shortness in the F₁ generation. Granting the validity of this deduction, from the behaviour of the character's in successive generations, he was led to state his first law:- "That of a pair of contrasted characters, only one can be represented in a single gamete."

We can expand the graphic representation given above indicating the units, or genes, present. Using T for tallness and t for shortness, and the units present in the adult by two symbols, ('since each adult is developed from the fusion of two 'gametes, ~ each of which contains one gene, by Mendell's Law) Thus:—

Adults. TT x ttP



From this it may be seen:- that 1 tall plant will breed true when selfed:-

TT x TT P
 |
 All tall F.

and the other two will form 3 tall and 1 short, as does F₁ and the short plants will breed true when selfed.

Contd. Overleaf. ..

GENETICS 1. By R, Edwards.

Contd, From overleaf.

It will thus be seen, that when the factors for tallness and shortness are present in the same adult, then the tallness masks the shortness, and so Mendel said it was "dominant" to shortness,, thus making the shortness "recessive" to the tallness. An example of this may be seen in the fact that Right-handedness is "dominant" to Left-handedness,

R. Edwards.

To be continued in our next issue.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The : Committee have decided to dispose of some of the Club Show Tanks. These are 9"x 6"x 6" and may be purchased for the actual cost price of 3/~ each. There are also some unglazed frames of the same size which may be had for 1/6 each.

Please ask any Committee man at any general meeting for these,

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This useful advertising medium may be used by/ all Members at a cost of 1/-- per entry,

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**MEETING 17 / 7/50,
FINAL SHOW PREPARATIONS,**

We, of the Committee, were glad to see as many as 60 Members present at this Meeting, because it means that we have at least that number of people keen enough to come along to a meeting at which work was to be "dished out",

Our President spoke of the entries, saying that out of a total Membership of some 180, only 40 people had entered fish. However we had about 260 entries to date, and, as the Programme had gone to the Printers we could not accept any more, with the exception of some Furnished Aquaria, which class was still some 6 entries short of the number aimed at. These 6 were soon made up by Members present, and will be added to the end of the Programme.

Mr.Saunders then said that it was proposed to fill some of the spare tanks with various aquatic plants - a separate group in each tank ~ while in others there would be "Friends & Foes" of Aquarists. He then handed over to Mr. Brock, our Show Organiser, who proceeded to appeal for his many volunteer assistants,, These were soon forthcoming, and a list of names was prepared, covering the whole of the week. It is possible that Members, not present at this meeting, would like to give a hand in some way, If so they will be very welcome at any time.

Many offers of Home-made cakes were gratefully received, and the Ladies of the Refreshment Committee are to have a further meeting, to settle their plans.

After this Mr. G. Cooke, (our Hon. Treas.) had a few words to say to the S21Juniors present, about his proposed "Zebra breeding Competition". Each Junior entering is to be given a pair of young Zebras(by Mr , Barnes-Oake ~ Many thanks, Mr , B~0ak!) together with a note book(supplied by Mr.Cooke)' The idea is for the entrants to grow on the pair of fishes and spawn them, taking notes during the whole of the time, then, at a given date, the Member with the best family of *Danio rerio*, coupled with the best set of notes on the subject, will be the lucky winner of an Aerator, very kindly donated by Mr.Cooke,

The Hon. Treas, then laughingly told the Juniors not to be afraid- to worry the Seniors for information about breeding.

The modest entrance fee for this interesting competition is 6d. This to go towards Junior Funds

H, A. Giles.
Hon. Sec,

A REM I N D E R TO JUNIORS,

I hope you have not forgotten that our President has offered a Pair of Fishes for the best article sent in, for the Journal, by a Junior Member, during the year. I have had one or two very good ones, but would like to see some more, so get busy you chaps(and girls!)

H. A, G.

THE THAMES VALLEY AQUATIC SOCIETY.

I have received a very friendly letter from the Hon. Sec of this Society __, together with a copy of their Journal. This magazine of theirs is a very fine effort, and I will pass it round at our next meeting for those of you who care to have a look at it. In his letter, Mr,Edwards suggests that we might exchange Journals each month, and this I have eagerly agreed to do. He then went on to suggest that we might even go farther, and reproduce selected articles from each other`s Book, subject, of course, to the approval of our respective contributors.

Now this to a harrassed publisher always short of copy, is a really brilliant suggestion, and I have written Mr,Edwards to that effect. If at any time any Member sending me an article, does not wish it to be reproduced in the Journal of our Friends in Thames Valley, perhaps they will mark it to that effect, I have already taken the liberty of passing on to you the following amusing article, which was published under the somewhat obscure title of "Anon".....

SPECIAL ARTICLE ON BREEDING GUPPIES,

Take any glass,china, or metal container, and fill it with water from pond, stream, or tap. Obtain one Male and one Female Guppy, and put them into container,!

(The only essential appears to be the water !!!!)

"Anon",

H. A. Giles,

ON THE _SUEJECT OF COPY !!!

I must first start with an apology for the several mistakes in our last issue, especially to the very keen Junior who was good enough to let me have the article on Tortoises,

My only excuse is, that the whole job had to be done in a mad rush partly due to my holiday, and partly to the large amount of work entailed by the forthcoming Annual Show, If I can only get the articles in advance, it will give me time to set them out properly. So don't forget, you Members who have not yet contributed, I`m sure you have all, at sometime wished to be an Author. PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR ARTICLED,

H, A. Giles.
Hon. Sec.

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This index was laboriously compiled by Mr, Mash, to whom many thanks

H. A. G.

R. J. FALKNER

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AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

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SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARISTS SOCIETY.

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September 1950

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m. on the First and Third Monday in each Month at :-

The Girl Guides Hall,
Corner of Electric Avenue and Westborough Road,
Westcliff.

EDITORIAL.

Well, the Show

is over and those who assisted to make it a great success it was, can now lean back in comfort and think of their efforts with a great deal of satisfaction. Almost from the minute the Show opened the Hall was uncomfortably full, Saturday being the busiest day, probably because of the Official opening by His Grace the Duke of Bedford at 2.30 p.m. and the distribution of Prizes by His Worship the Mayor and the Mayoress at 7.30 p.m.

Before the opening day it seemed ('as usual !!) that things would never be ready in time, and it is here that I wish to pay tribute to the Members who gave of their time and effort to get everything in order. Personal names should not be mentioned but, in my opinion full credit must be given to :-

Mr. Carter, who worked unceasingly for two days before the Show, and for many hours after it was closed.

Mr. Smith, who was Mr. Carter's very able lieutenant, and who spent practically the whole of seven days on duty.

To the Juniors, particularly Perry, Hedges, Sherman, Moss-, English and Doweett, who each did a man's work.

Mr. A. Parley, the 'snake charmer', who very nearly "stole" the Show. Giving demonstrations with a Python, weighing 20 lbs, every 30 minutes, is heavy work, and it says much for Mr. Parley's strength and enthusiasm, that he never faltered during the whole of the four days.

Mrs. Outing for the loan of aeration accessories and to Mr. Outing for Transport assistance.

Tubular Designs Ltd, (per Mr. Prockter) for loan of Aerators. Messrs, Barne-Oak & Brooks for transporting tanks & equipment. Now, last, but by no means least, the Ladies -Bless 'em ~ Their unflagging efforts with Refreshments, coupled with their cheery smiles, however tired they felt, made the hall a good place to be in. It's certain I've missed someone out but may I give a sincere

"Thank you" to everyone who helped in any way, including the Committee and Officials,

C. J. Saunders. President

:

Lucky programme Number 0279

OUR THIRD ANNUAL SHOW,

Our President has said most of the important things on this subject, but I hope a few words from me will not oome amiss It was a good Show ~ there can be no doubt about that, The Hall was rather too small for us, but we didour best with the space available. Everybody worked with a will, and it was tiring work, but I feel that all who took part in the job, enjoyed the satisfaction of knowing they had helped.

We are grateful for the interest shown by His Grace The Duke of Bedford in coming so far to open the Show, and to our Mayor and Mayoress, for their kindness in presenting the Prizes, There are many more names that might be mentioned, but I hesitate to start something that I could not stop, however, we do thank the little Lady (Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fuller) who came all the way from Shoebury, in her prettiest frock, to present the bouquet to our Mayoress, so nicely.

There was also the youthful Member who caught the first Bus in fron Corringham every day, and the last out at night. One could hardly help comparing him with the Members who did not trouble to visit the Show at alll

Still, on the whole it was fun, and the cheerful smiles from the Ladies in the Canteen, went a long way towards making it so,

H.A.Giles Hon: Sec.

AN APPEAL FOR LOST EQUIPMENT,

I am sorry to say that the Secretary of the Liberal Hall lost a Hammer a Screwdriver, and a Pair of Pliers, which he was good enough to loan us,

A member also reports having lost two washleathers and a net. It is probable that, in the shambles that usually follows the breaking up of a show, some kindly souls put these articles in their own bags, hoping to find the rightful owners at a later date. If this is so perhaps they will contact me. We are sorry that willing helpers should be the losers, by their kindness, and hope to put the matter right,

H. A, Giles,

CUPS AND MEDALLIONS,

Will all who wen Cups at the Annual Show, return them immediately to the Secretary, for engraving? Place inside the Cup a slip bearing the Winner`s name. Likewise those who wish to have their Medals engraved should put each one in an envelope, on the outside of which should be :- Name, Fish for which Medal won, 1950,

Example,

A, Quarist,
Swordtails,
1950

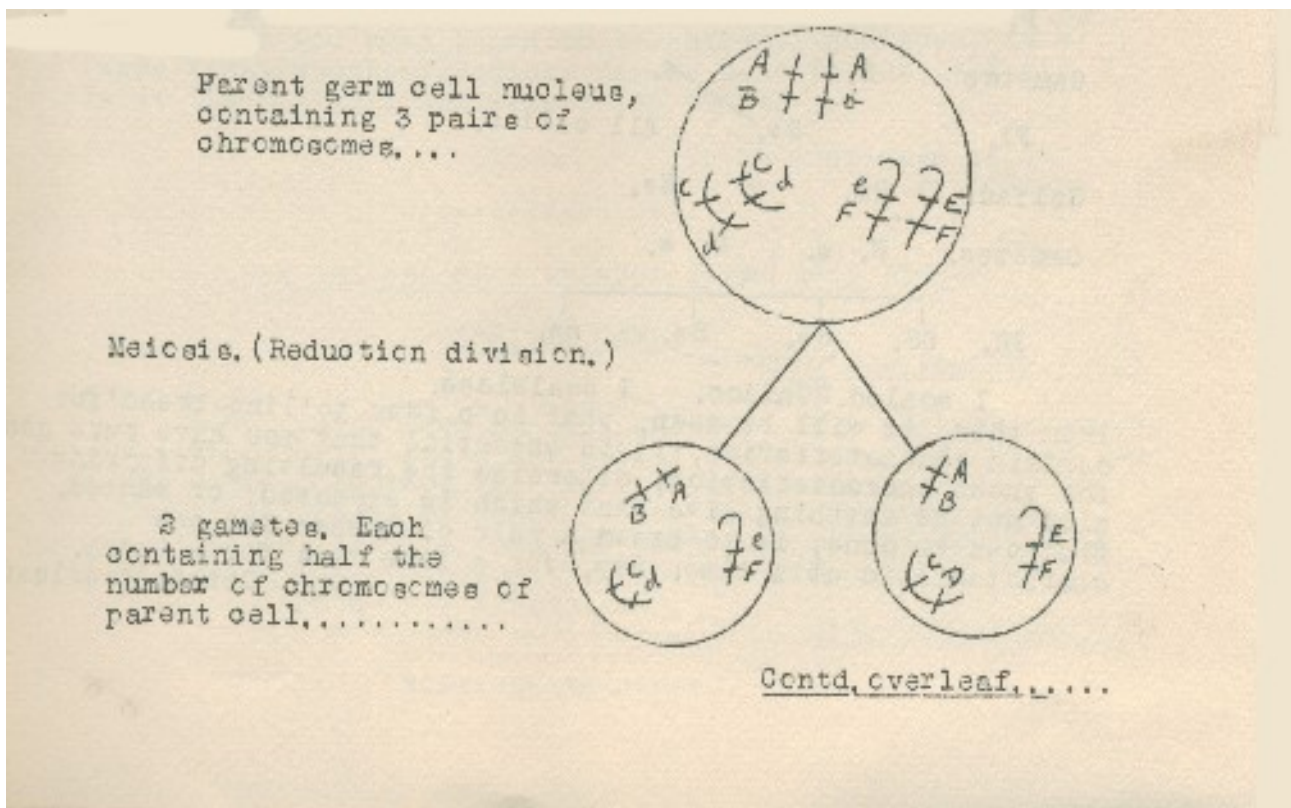
GENETICS. . CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE.

By. R. Edwards,

What I have said already, has got a modern interpretation involving terms which are usually misunderstood, so I shall do my best to confuse you with them as little as possible. The Mendellian "Germinal factors of Inheritance" are now known as "Genes!" These genes are joined together in a long string to form a "Chromosome", and these exist in the nucleus of a cell in pairs. Thus, for the two factors for inheritance of Mendel, we now have two genes, which exist on similar chromosomes in each cell.

In order that the chromosome of the offspring be equal to that of the parent, the germ cells, producing the gametes in the sex glands (the testes and ovaries) of the parents, divide to form the gametes which contain half the chromosome number of the parents - this process is called a reduction division, or Meiosis (pronounced My-osis, the 'o' being long, as in Bone,) Fortunately this process can be shown diagrammatically, as the chromosomes vary in length and shape (as well as in number for each species of fish.)

In the following diagram, species of chromosomes are represented in the nucleus of the germ cells of the parents. It must be realised, however, that there are more than three pairs in reality per nucleus. On each chromosome, there are two dashes marked to represent the pair of genes on similar chromosomes.

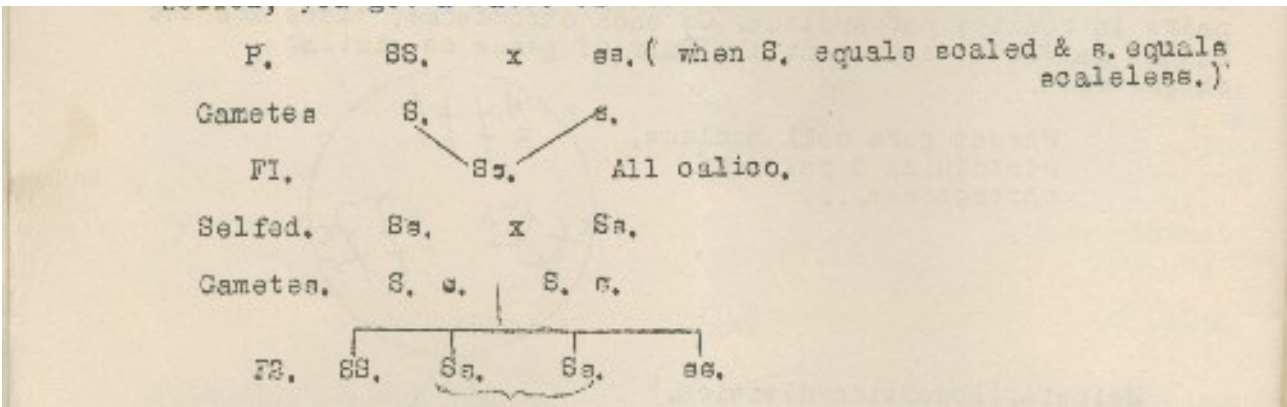


GENETICS, 2.

Contd, from overleaf.

Fertilisation is the fusion of two gametes, a male with a female gamete, thus restoring to the embryo, the full number of chromosomes as the parents.

Up to this point, it is comparatively easy to understand ~ I hope - but it is now complicated slightly. So far we have been thinking about one single gene controlling one single characteristic, such as size, or colour, etc. It is not however, quite so simple as all that; for example, in the colour of the shubunkin there are three colours in the fish, black, orange and yellow, and the absence of colour altogether. The variations in colour e.g. the reds, blues, blacks and browns etc, are formed by varying the combinations of the colours and the depths at which the pigments are situated in the skin of the fish. To complicate matters still further, there are more than one pair of genes controlling each factor. It will be seen, therefore, that the colour of the shubunkin may be controlled by as many as three or four dozen pairs of genes, situated on various chromosomes. The characteristic for "scaled", "calico", or "scaleless" (metallic, nacreous, of matt) shubunkins, is controlled by genes which decide whether there is light-reflecting tissue or not, in the skin beneath the scales. If a "scaled" fish be crossed with a "scaleless fish, the F1 generation are all "calico" fishes. If these be selfed, you get a ratio of two calico to one scaleless fishes ~



1 scaled. 2 Calico. 1 scaleless.

From this, it will be seen, that in order to "line-breed" for certain characteristics, it is essential that you have pure genes for those characteristics, otherwise the resulting offspring will not be anything like that which is expected, or wanted. What can be done, is to breed a pair of fishes for one characteristic at a time. Say, for a fine tail for a Gupry.

Contd, overleaf.

GENETICS. 2.

Contd. from overleaf

This is bred with a virgin female, and then crossed with one of the daughters, and this is carried for a good many generations.

After a good many generations, the offspring will carry ~ with a bit of luck! ~ the desired characteristic. While this is being done, a parallel experiment should be done for, say colour, and when the two show a constancy, then the two lots of fish should be crossed, and, again with a bit of luck, a fish will be produced having both the desired finnage and colour effects ~ I say, however, that only possibly will a good fish be produced. It is a great mistake to breed for more than one characteristic at a time. One difficult characteristic should be established at a time. Then, when these characteristics have been established in various different fishes, they may be combined in crossing and there is then the possibility that a fish may which shows both characteristics, they would then be produced together, and, when this has been done, another Characteristic added.

It may be seen from this then, that in time, a good strain of fishes may be built up, but, I repeat it takes a time. A well known breeder of Coldwater fishes in the country, boasts that he has not added any fresh stock to his tanks for 27 years! He has now got some of the finest fish in the country. It would naturally not take as long as this to build up a strain of rapidly maturing Tropical fishes, but it would take years, rather than a few months. So you must learn to be patient, and then, in a few years time, Southend Society may be able to take all the prizes at the National and Federation Shows.

To be continued in our next issue.

ON THE USE OF A THERMOS FLASK AS A FISH CARRYING CAN,

By J. B. Fautley (Junior.)

Returning from London, one day, in a car, we stopped to make a Phone call. I saw a Tropical fish shop just across the road, and decided to look in. There I looked around and bought a couple of nice Pearl Danios, The Shopkeeper had only a small jam-jar to offer, and the road was bumpy, so we put them in an empty Thermos flask, bringing them safely home.

I hope they liked tea!

J. B. Fautley. (Jr.)

MEETING. MONDAY. 31 /8/50.

SHOW TALK,

There were about 60 Members present when the V. President took the Chair, He apologised for the absence of our President, Mr.Saunders, who was away, judging the Goldfish Show, and then offered a welcome to new Members present, saying he hoped they would not find the meeting too dull, but that we would endeavour to make the next one more interesting to them. The subject of our next Excursion (Sunday. 24 / 9/50) was then discussed, suggestions as to the destination being asked for. After much question and answer, it was decided, by vote, to visit Kew Gardens, calling, en route, at London Airport, as a place of interest. This latter being much approved of in the Junior Section! Thirty Members signified their intention of joining this Excursion, and it is hoped that we will fill the Coach this time. There was a rather unfair remark made, to the effect that the Committee were prejudiced about Children being on the Coach. This is, of course entirely untrue. There is no limit to the number of Children allowed providing their seats are paid for, but it is impossible to run an Excursion without loss if an unknown number of seats are taken by non-paying passengers. In passing, I would point out that at least seven Members of the Committee have brought up families of their own!

A Member then asked if, in future, names of Exhibitors could be shown on tanks at Show, This, after some discussion, was decided against, by the majority of the meeting. Another Member then said that he considered that the lighting of the small tanks was bad. This was agreed, in principle, though this year it was rather unavoidable. A note would be made, for the use of the organiser next year. Regarding the weakness found in the water and electric supply at the Liberal Hall, a Member said that this should have been known beforehand. Mr, Brock our Show Organiser, in reply, said that he was only human, and had done his best, under very difficult circumstances. Mr, J, Cowan, then rose, and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Brock, saying that only those who had worked as hard as our Organiser had any right to criticise him! Mr.Rayner seconded this, and the meeting showed their approval in: no uncertain manner, Mr. Barnes-Oake then spoke of some plants, which were lost at the Show, saying that a very hard working Member had been accused of taking these. This was, he said, a regrettable mistake, and he hoped the gentleman in question would forgive and forget, but, he added, those plants were taken by someone who surely knew that they were not his property. They were in fact to have been sold for the benefit of the Junior Funds, so if anyone would care to donate a plant or two, at the next Auction for this purpose, he would be grateful. Reference was made, to the various assets of the Club, and Mr, Barnes- Oak assured the meeting that the Committee would guarantee that all present assets would be cared for, and produced when required. After some general discussion, the meeting closed at around 10, p. m,

H. A.Giles.

COMING EVENTS,

As you will see from your Programme Cards, we have a visiting Lecturer down for **Monday Sept, 4th**, He is a Mr. Cleveland from W. Croydon, and is to give us a talk on the subject of "Fish Diseases", This is a subject which we all need at some time or other, so I hope that you roll up in good time, as no doubt, Mr. Cleveland will have to rush away for his train, at the end of the meeting.

MONDAY. SEPT. 18th. brings us to our third, and last Table Show of the year. It is for Labyrinths, Mollies, and Fantails. The first class includes Fighters, and all the various Gouramies, while the second class, embraces all the various Mollies, so I am sure we shall have a record entry, You will have an entry form shortly, so please let us have it filled in and returned as soon as possible,

H.A.Giles.
Hon. Sec

JUNIOR FIELD DAY, SUNDAY 20/8/50

Another Field Day (or Ramble) was arranged by the Juniors for Sunday the 20th. of August, and Messrs, Hardy, Sherman, English Fish, Scorah, Sanders, Rolph and Hedges, all met at Leigh Station, where they were joined by the Senr. Hon. Sec. Mr. Giles, and Mrs Giles, and, of course their little dog "Scrap", who is fast becoming the Mascot on these Days. The Weather was rather dull at the start, but we were soon rewarded by the appearance of the sun, making the usual S. L. A. D. A. S weather.

First stop was at Hadleigh Castle, not so much to inspect the ruins, as to have a rest after the climb up the hill! Then down again, to the old brickfield pond, the onetime haunt of Herons, which was thoroughly fished by the Juniors. Lunch was eaten here, and a very pleasant rest was enjoyed, with much yarning. Later a trio of extremely large horses decided to explore our Lunch packets, haversacks, etc. Mr. Giles, somewhat thoughtlessly, gave them sugar, and the ensuing stampede broke up the party!

Walking on towards Benfleet, a pond was discovered with quite a nice supply of Daphnia, which was collected by those with cans. Then, after a very welcome cup of tea at Benfleet, the party disbanded, some to return by Bus, while others went by train.

It was a really enjoyable day, and we were sorry not to see some of the Young Lady Members. Perhaps next time?

H.A.G

5.L.A.D. A. S. EXCHANGE AND MART,

For the benefit of the many newcomers to our Society this is a useful method of advertising your wants, etc. The cost is 1/- per entry.

1, **FOR SALE.....** Metallic scaled fantail fry.
APPLY :- John W, Cowan,
88, Salisbury Rd. ,
Leigh-On-Sea,

2. **FOR SALE.....**Tank. 36 x 15 x. 12. Glazed throughout with ¼ plate glass. Complete with
Top-light, and Angel 100 w, Heater. PRICE. . £4.
APPLY:- R. J. Sullivan,
12, Burleigh Mansions,
Westcliff~On~Sea. '

3, **FOR SALE.....**Young "Black" Moore, also a few Young Shubunkins,
One 24 x IS" Stand. Finished in Cream, Rustproof paint. . . PRICE. .,35/~
APPLY:- Mr. Mitchell,
142,Lonsdale Rd. ,
Southend-On-Sea,

I ADD-ER SNAKE BITE.

.by K.B. Dowsett (Jr.)

It was on August the 10th., two days after the Show when I went "snaking" First of all two of us(including myself) fished for newts, while the other two went on the prow. In half an hour they returned with a good haul of five Slow Worms

Then it was my turn, I picked up three Slow Worms in ten minutes, and was just lifting a piece of tin, when I felt a sharp jab in my finger ~ to my amazement it was an adder, (about ten inches long) I picked it up and put it in a bag,then walked back to my pals (it is a good thing not to get excited, because that causes the bleed to circulate quicker!)with my haul of three Slow Worms, one Adder, and a Bite! I handed them over to the gentleman in charge,then set out for the nearest Hospital (Rochford) where they injected me, and kept me for the night. I returned home, next afternoon,none the worse for my experience.

K. B. Dowsett.

THESE THINGS ARE SENT TO TRY US.

By Mrs. V, Glover.

We do not profess to be expert Aquarists, in fact we are well down the scale, but still that can't account for ALL the bad luck that dogs our humble efforts.

We can breed livebearers with ease ('who can't?') and rear young that take 2nd. and 3rd. prizes (never firstly but when it comes to egg-layers, 111!??)

Take, for instance, our *Jordanellas*. Nothing to it! they ('the experts') said, when we humbly enquired about breeding. "Just put the two together in a large, well planted seasoned, tank, and without any fuss, you will have 'Daddy' trailing along a school of youngsters in no time." But with us it went somehow different.

Our Fish looked "In the pink", the tank was large, the plants good, our hopes were high. At first the two made a great fuss of each other, and, to all appearances spawned in a clump of *Elodea densa*. So far, so good, We expected the male to chase didn't expect to chase his lady after that, but we didn't expect to find her half killed, with fins in shreds, the same day!

We saved her with salt baths, etc, and we watched the tank anxiously for youngsters. The male did not act in accordance with the book of rules, and we were not even rewarded with one little 'runt'. Away went the jars of over-ripe infusoria, and the male went back into the Community tank, where he immediately started making love to our Prize Male Rosy Barb, I can't blame him as the Barb certainly looks much prettier than a female *Jordanella*. I always think she looks rather like a bulldog!

We gave Mr s. J. three months rest, and by this time she was bigger and better than before. We tried all over again, not forgetting a thing, (as we thought) but the two turned their backs on each other, not at all interested. Then we noticed that the female was getting plumper, still no spawning occurred. Fatter and fatter she got, not with eggs, alas. No, it was Dropsy!

We buried her quietly, and returned the sorrowing(?) husband to his Rosy Barb. We may try again- some day.....

V,P,L. Glover,

FOUND AT THE SHOW,

A latch key ('Yale type') was handed to me at the Show, so if anyone lost one, will they please contact me,

H. A. G. Hon. Sec,

THE AQUARIST'S GLOSSARY (2nd. HELPING.)

By M. C.Mash.

ANGEL.....Looking good from any "angle!".

ANNUAL SHOW....Like an annual bath - comee once a year.

A SPAWNING....."Millions of `em!"

BALANCEThe Treasurers nightmare.

BL00D-WORM.....As good for fishes as a transfusion,

CAUDAL FIN.....Where the rot sets in.

COMPOST....."Scrub, brother scrub."

DYTISCUS BEETLE. An enthusiastic fish lover !

DROPSY.....A "quid" pro quo,

ELECTRICITY....Pay for it, and "see."

FRY.....Tiny fishes - one might almost say "Chips."

FUNGUS.....Growth easily eliminated, with a razor.

GREEN WATER....Very good for the complexion- but smelly,

INFUSORIA.....If seen, cannot be believed. If believed,cannot be seen,

LIVE-BEARER....Hatched, without cracking the shell.

MICRO-WORM....Preferred filleted by Tropicals

pH.....An indescribable "oomph".

SHIMMY.....When one can hear the fishes teeth chattering.

STRIPLIGHT.....The naked truth.

TOPPING-UP.....Celebrating with aqua pura.

24 x 12 x 12. ...How one's head feels, on winning first Cup.

VALLIS. TORTA, .. Curling round. You know,like a spiral staircase

WHITE SPOT....,A sort of black plague, only paler.

WORM-SHREDDER. ..Something to make a worm squirm.

R. J. FALKNER

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SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol. 3 No 3

OCTOBER 1950

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m., on the First and Third Monday in the Month at:-

The Girl Guides Hall,
Corner of West borough Road and Electric Avenue,
Westcliff.

EDITORIAL.

From the point of view of the Society, one of the more pleasing aftermaths of the Annual Show has been the increase in the applications for membership,

We now have the second largest "paper" membership of any society in the Country ~ and what is more noteworthy, is the fact that we have, probably the largest "active" membership of any club. This reflects favourably on the activities of our Society, while we lose members, as is usual, we gain others, and a 'hard core' of about 70 Enthusiasts- attend our meetings.

Very shortly, the Committee will be preparing the Programme for next year, and we should appreciate any constructive criticism of the current year's efforts, together with any suggestions that may be forthcoming for 1951. It is of course, impossible to satisfy everyone, we have to attempt to cater for the majority,

Recently one or two Members have asked if it would be possible to revive the Social Evenings, It certainly would, but not unless there was more support from the Members. When a vote was taken on the advisability of including Social evenings and/or Whist Drives in our Programme of events, there was an overwhelming majority against. If opinion has changed, now is the time to ensure that the Committee are aware of the change, and can cater for the Members' wishes in the ensuing year,

C.J.Saunders
President.

LIST OF PRIZEWINNERS IN THE ANNUAL SHOW.

The **ABBOTT CUP** for highest total por.ntm ..Mr.C. J. Saunder .
 The **SAUNDERS CUP** for best Junior entry. ... D. Smith, Jr;
 The **JONES CUP** for best Coldwater entry. ,. Mr. C. J. Saunders
 The **FLAMEORO CUP** for best Tropical entry., Mr. M. C. Mash.
 The **BROOKS SHIELD** for Furnished Aquaria. .. Mr. G. Cooke,
 The **GILES CUP** for 1st.Home Aquaria.....Mr.G.Cooke.
Anon.Cup for 2nd. Home Aquaria,.....Mr. R, Sullivan.
Anon Cup for 3rd, Home Aquaria.. shared, by. D, Scorch, Jr.& Mr.E.Clark.
 The **DU-BOISSON CUP** for best Black Widow. . Mr. W. Hoare.

OTHER AWARDS.

<u>Class</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>Highly Commended</u>
1. Guppy. "	Mr.Willis.	Mr, Saunders.	Mrs. Gibbs.	Mr. Halfhead
2. Golden Guppy.	Mr. Mash.	Mrs. Gibbs-.		
3. Swords.	Mr. Saunders.	Mr. Saunders,	Mr. Halfhead.	Mr. Willis.
4. Platy.	Mr. Willis.	Mr. A. Smith.	Mrs. E. H. Smith.	
5. Molly. Sp.	Mr s. Gibbs,	Mr Saunders,	J. English, jr.	
6. Perma Blacks.	Mr s.E. Smith,	Mr.G.Cooke.	Mr. Saunders.	
6a.M. Velifera.	Mr. Willis.	Mr. Hoare.		
7.A.0,V. Livebearer.	Mr. Willis.	Mrs. Sullivan.	Mr. E. Smith.	
8. Fighters'.	D. Smith, Jr.	Mr. Saunders	R. Khatchbull, Jr.	
9. Dwarf Gourami.	Mr.Hoare.	Mrs. Sullivan.		
11. A,0.V. Labyrinths-.	D. Smith Jr.	Mr. Saunders.	Mrs. Gibbs.	Mrs. Sullivan.
12. zebras.	Mr, Saunders.	Mr. Saunders.	Mr. Pryor.	Mr. Mash.
13. A.0.V.Danios.	D, Smith,Jr	Mr Sullivan.	Mr. Moulton.	Mr. Sullivan.
14. W.C.M. Minnows.	Mr.Saunders.	Mr. Cooke.	Mr. Hoare,	
15. Rosy Barbs.	J. Outing, Jr.	Mr. Bonner .	Mr.E.Clark.	Mr.Saunders.
16. Nigger Barbs.	Mr, Cooke.	Mr.Prime.	Mr, Giles-.	H. Fisher, Jr.
17. Half Banded- Barbs,	Mr. Saunders,	Mr. Willis.	P.Rolph,Jr.	
17a, A 0.V. Barbs.	Mr.Willis,	Mr, Cooke.	Mr. Saunders	Mr.Mash.
18. Widows,	Mr.Hoare.	Mr, Mash,	Mr. A, Smith.	Mr. Saunders
19. Characins.	Mr. Mash.	Mr, Prime.	Mr.Mash.	Mr. Sullivan.
21. Angels.	Mr. Parry .	Mr. R. Edwards.	Mr. Mash.	
22. A.0.V.Cichlids.	Mr. Giles.	Mr .R, Edwards.	R. Knatchbull. Jr.	Mr. Sanders,
24. Shubunkins.	Mr, Saunders.	Mr, Ssunders	Mr. Saunders.	Mrs. Sullivan.
S5. Fancy Goldfish.	Mr. Cowan.	Mr. Saunders.	Mr. Saunders,	Mr, R.Edwards,
26. A.OV.Coldwater Fish.	Mr.Mash.	Mr Mash,	Mr. Mash.	
27. Furnished Aquaria.	Mr.Cooke.	Mr. Cooke.	Mr. Cowan.	Mr. Prime.

Prize Cards are issued for all these classes, with Bronze Medals for Ist.Prize winners. If any Member wishes to have his Medal engraved he should hand it to the Secretary

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMING EVENTS,

OCTOBER 2nd.INSTRUCTIONAL EVENING.

We have had these evenings in the past, and they have proved very popular. OLD hands' will know all about them, but, for the benefit of the many new Members with us, I should explain that we endeavour to demonstrate some of the branches of our Hobby in a practical manner. For instance Mr.E.Clark will give a demonstration of **GLAZING A TANK**, while Mr. Fountain will, with the aid of some **MICROSCOPES**, explain some of the mysteries of **INFUSORIA**. Our Hon. Advisor, Mr. Barnes-Oake, will have a special table, labelled **QUERIES ?** so bring along all your troubles, you will have a job to floor him! At another table Mr.Giles will explain, in a practical way, how he makes his own brand of **DRIED FOOD**. Some of this may be "Old stuff" to some Members, but we must remember that there are & lot of "Learners" among us, and those not interested in the various- attractions can take the opportunity for some of those heart to heart chats, much beloved by Aquarits, in odd corners!

OC TOBER 16th..AUCTION SALE. Mr. E. Day will act as Auctioneer. Easily the most popular nights of the year, when anything up to ISO are present. This is the time to sell anything you have surplus, connected with the Hobby, and at the same time to look out for the bargains you always dream of!
Fish, Plants, Tanks, and all equipment will be there, so coma along and enjoy yourselves.
AN ENTRY FORM IS ENCLOSED HEREWITH if you wish to send anything in for sale.

ANNUAL DINNER. SATURDAY. DEC.,. 9th. 6 .30 p.m to 10 p.m.

This happy event is drawing rapidly nearer, so this is a reminder to keep the date open, The Hotel has not yet been decided upon, but you will be notified about that later.

Artists will ba there to entertain you, good food will ba served, and there will be drinks ~ hard and soft - for those who want them, and we will try to keep Fish off the Menu!
Come along, and bring your friends, as all will be walcome (it is quite a nice way of celebrating a Birthday, or other Anniversary) The price of tickets and the Hotel, will ba published as soon as possible,

MR CLEVELAND ON FISH DISEASES. 4/ 9/50.

There were some 67 Members present, when Mr. Cleveland gave his talk on the subject of "Fish Diseases". He started by saying that these were simply his own ideas and findings-, and they had not been copied from books.

Many fish ailments (as with humans) can be avoided, and the first rule for this is Cleanliness! While mulm in a tank may be good for some plants, too much of it will cause harmful bacteria to spring to life. Overfeeding with dried food, Tubifex, etc., will cause this. Mr. Cleveland himself favours the use of a 3% solution of Mercurochrome for the sterilizing of tanks-, as this is not harmful to plants. **HYDRA**, This pest is best got rid of by Paper Snails (from ponds) The deadly **Whitespot** was next discussed, and the suggested cure being 8 drops of Mercurochrome to the gallon of water, leave 4 days at a temperature of 85 to 90 degrees. Siphon off 3 parts, refill with fresh water, and repeat dose. **FUNGUS**, another dreaded fish disease can often be cured by brushing a 25% solution of T.C.P. on to the affected fish and cleaning tank thoroughly.

The Lecturer then said that Fin and Tail rot was not properly a complaint so much as a lack of certain minerals in the water. These being Iron, Manganese, and Calcium. A good idea is to siphon off one - third of water once a fortnight and top up. **Black Fungus** very deadly, but can be cured by the T.C.P. treatment. Mr. Cleveland said he would like to hear of any cases of this, as it was, fortunately, rather rare. **SWIMBLADDER** trouble is not easily curable unless it is a passing attack caused by constipation, when it can be put right with a diet of Daphnia. He then went on to say that **Dropsy**, in his opinion was caused by feeding young fishes with too much Micro and White worm, and a balanced diet will avoid this incurable disease. A good way to sterilize plants is to wash them in Vinegar,

Replying to a question, Mr. Cleveland said that Cyclops do not eat fish eggs or fry. Mr. Barnes-Oake then said he did not agree that Micro -and White worm caused Dropsy, and a friendly argument followed, which seemed to be settled over the usual "Cup that Cheers."

The subject is, of course, a controversial one, as everyone has his or her, own pet "Cures", but Mr. Cleveland was emphatic that these were only his own opinions, based on practical tests over a period of years. A hearty vote of thanks was responded to in no uncertain manner.

=====

TABLE SHOW. 18/9/50.

The third of the Years Table Shows was held on the 18th, of September, but this time, with a difference. The Juniors held their own separate Show on the same night. This experiment was not entirely a success, as it reduced the number of entries in the Senior section. There were 78 Members present many of them newcomers to the Club, and the Show was for Labyrinths-, Mollies, and Fantails in the Senior section, while the Juniors showed Guppies, Danios, and Mollies. There were 18 Senior entries and 24 Junior. Unfortunately there were not enough in the Senr. Mollie entries to make up a Class, First in the Labyrinthn was won by Mr. A. Byrnes, second Mr.C Villion, third Mr, A...Byrnes , and Highly commended Mrs Gibbs. In the Fantail Class there were not enough entries to give more than a first, and this was taken by Mr J. Cowan.

The Junior Prizes were awarded as follows:-

Guppies. . . .	1st,	G. Moss
	2nd,	Ann Duboisson
	3rd-,	G. Hedges
Danios	1st,	J. English
	2nd,	Ann Barnes-Oake
	3rd,	G. Hedges
Mollies.	1 st	Heather Scott
	2 nd	G. Moss
	3 rd	D. Row

We are glad to see so many new members in this list and especially glad to see the yopung lady members there. Keep it up !While Mr. Barnes-Oake kindly judged the entries our President offered to answer any questions, thus passing a very pleasant and, at times, amusing hour.

Together with their Medals and Prize Cards, the Junors were fortunate in winning sundry nets, scrapers, and other useful gadgets, purchased with prize rrcney, kindly donatad by one or two anonymous Members.

During the evening Mr.Saunders informed the Meeting that our old Friend, and late Treasurer, Mr, Jack Brooks, had sent a donation of Two Guineas to the Funds, all the way from his new home in Australia, This was received with much applause.

FUNNY FISH STORY. (True !)

A fairly new Member recently paid a visit to another Member, and proudly told him that he had hatched a lovely crowd of Flamen. Then, looking in his friend's tanks, he remarked,"You also have a nice lot of young Flames "hatching out in this tank. " "No fear," said friend, New Member. "They're Cyclops." "Well, in that case" I haven't any Flames, either!

=====

COACH EXCURSION, SUNDAY 24/9/50

For the first time in the history weather on an Excursion, was bad, In spite of this ,however,45 Members and friends had a really enjoyable time when they visited The London Airport and Kew Gardens

A start was made at 9.00 a.m. And after picking up our intrepid band along the London Road. arrived at London Airport at 11 30, a.m. The rain,which had poured all the way up now ceased. We were met at the gates by two very versed guides who conducted the coaches around the several miles of runways stopping at the various hangers to inspect some of th worlds latest and largest Airliners.

The 75 ton Stratocruiser, with seats for 75 passengers, and a cocktail lounge was the last word- the only thing missing seemed to be an Aquarium!

Leaving the Airport, we made our way through more rain to Kew Gardens. On arrival the rain again obliged by easing up, so we were able to enjoy the beauty of the sights with some degree of comfort. Though it was the first "Non-fishy" excursion we still managed to find some Guppies and Swords in the Tropical Water-lily pools, so that we did not feel out of place.

Some of the party left the grounds before the agreed time of 6.00 p.m. and rumour has it that some Juniors essayed a trip on the River, the current of which, proved too much for them, and, in fact, an oar became separated from the boat, thus necessitating a hurried towing job, by the boat owner !!

I know for a fact that several of the Seniors spent a somewhat hectic hour in a small fair ground on the bank of the River, where they took complete charge of the "Dodgems" for a short time. I can speak with inside knowledge of this, because I was the first to investigate the possibilities of the place !

Leaving Kew at 6.p.m. the Drivers took us slowly through London, via the Embankment, always an interesting ride, I think. I wonder, as a point of interest, how many people,even those born in London,can correctly name all the Bridges across the Thames?

The eternal rain was, by now beginning to come down in real earnest as though sorry it had allowed us a few short hours dry in Kew.few.. However, after a stop at Dagenham, where most of us enjoyed a repast of Steak and Chips etc. , while others sought more liquid forms of refreshment, a happy run home was enjoyed by all (with the possible exception of the Driver) The rendering of "Nellie Dean" and other Classics by some of the Passengers, proved that it takes more than just a lot of rain to daunt a band of Aquarists !

H. A. Giles.
Hon. Sec,

=====

GENETICS (3). CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE,

By R, Edwards

The next question that you will ask yourselves, is, how can you tell what the Genetical make-up of the fishes is-? Because if you establish a double dominant in the male and female, then you can go on for ever breeding true to our characteristic, and so a new variety may be established. Hence the different varieties of Swords and Platys and Guppies, each of which, breeds true to its own characteristics, The Genetical make up of your fishes may be determined by means of a "back cross" (i.e, A cross between one of the offspring with one of its parents), of one of the offspring to the parent carrying the recessive characteristic. Then ratio the number of offspring of this cross having the dominant, to those with the double recessive, will enable you to find out whether the fish you are using carries a pure dominant, or a mixture of dominant and recessive, thus-

To determine the genetical condition of the F1, generation always back cross F1. to the recessive, e.g.

P..... AA, x aa.

Gametes A x a

Thus, if F1, heterogeneous (i.e.carries

pair's of differing genes.e, g, Tt,]^,etc.) when back-crossed with the recessive, dominant, and 50% showing recessive, the result will always be 50% showing

Back-cross Aa. x aa,

Gametes.. (A.) (a.) x (aa)

F2,... Aa, + aa.
50% 50%

In an earlier article, I mentioned some thing about line-breeding. If in your fishes, you find something unusual which you wish to establish; for example, in a Table Show about a year ago, for Danios, an unusual pair of Danios were noticed, with the stripes in their tails being perpendicular to their normal direction. The way to establish it. is to breed a pair which show the variation, and then back-cross the F1, generation to the parental generation, and find which parent carries the gene for the factor, and if it is dominant or recessive. Then, breed the various fishes accordingly, always bearing in mind, that the dominant will always mask the recessive, though not always completely, e, g. in the colour of flowers, Red is dominant to White, When a Red flower is bred with a White one, sometimes the heterogeneous offspring are Red, and sometimes they are Pjnk, showing a "Partial dominant". It is this phenomenon of partial dominance which causes the appearanoe of the Calico Shubunkins as the F1.

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GENETICS (3..) continued from over leaf

generation; when Scaled and Scaleless Shubunkins- are the parental generation:-

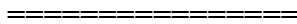
F.	SS	x	ss. . .
Gametes.	(S)		(s).
F1. . . .	Ss.		Calico (or Nacreous)

(see earlier. article,)

When this information has been obtained it is time .to be thinking about establishing a new variety by a similar means as I have suggested for line- breeding. It is by this means, that the different varieties of Platys, Swords, and Guppies, etc. , have been established. But, as I have already stressed, it takes time to have your name remembered as the name of a variety of Guppy or something!

In this series of articles, I have tried to give an idea about Genetics, as it may be applied to your fishes. If you haven't understood it, I am sorry, and will try to confuse you still further at one of our meetings. For those people who have understood my articles there are, no doubt, many questions which you wish to ask me, and which , no doubt, I shall not know the answer, either. Still I shal endeavour to "blind you by science" to cover up my own failings.

R. Edwards.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE.
RE: THE CHANGE OF HALL**

Many of you who were at the meeting when we voted in favour of changing our Meeting Hall for the, more central Liberal Hall, will be waiting to hear the date of the changeover. Well, here it is. Our next two meetings will be held at cur present headquarters, where we have had so many happy times. After that we shall be at **THE LIBERAL HALL, CLARENCE ROAD,**(scene of our recent Annual Show,) Starting on **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER THE 1st.** This will, from then on, be our regular meeting place, and night, as Wednesday is apparently the more popular evening with the majority of our Members.

Don't say you did not see this

H. A Giles

LET'S BE A TRIFLE UNORTHODOX - SOMETIMES,

by.M.C.Mash,

We read in our favourite publications on Exotic fishes-and, indeed, we often have it rammed into us by our notable advisers ~ that so many square inches of room per fish should undoubtedly be allowed. But how many of us implicitly follow this advice? How many of us have the space and convenience to follow it?

I am not gainsaying that the many authorities who advocate "This, that, and the ether" are not, in the main correct in their assumptions- even though, when one considers that the time spent on research, and the numbers of fishes they have had to lose to prove their theories correct, must have been tremendous ~ but I do say that they are laying down laws that should be followed in an "elastic" manner, and in saying this I am fully aware of heaping coals of fire upon my, thinly-thatched. head.

Neither do I want to try to justify the other extreme ~ such as, for instance, so many fishes to one square inch, but I maintain (with all sincerity, and with a certain amount of experience) that to be "elastically unorthodox" is in some measure, good for most fishes,

The majority seem to thoroughly enjoy a variation of temperature of 10 to 15 degrees, either way in a gradual dose, and a double quantity of fishes to so many square inches (with intermittent aeration) is in no sense, to my way of thinking, very harmful. On the contrary, it is, in point of fact, most natural. It hardens the fishes to conditions which, during their comparatively short lives, they will probably have to face at some time, and they stand a greater chance of survival of these conditions than their pampered and spoon-fed brethren.

I recall, with amusement, the look of astonished amazement on the face of a gentleman (whom we all venerate and rightly regard as a great man of the fish world) when, at our recent Annual Show, I netted a Clown Barb from a tank (the water of which must have been 75 - 80 degrees.) and dropped it into a small show tank of freshly-drawn tap water, without testing the temperature. It supports my theory of "hardness" to say that the fish did not "turn a scale". One cannot be continually regarding exactitude as the acme of perfection in keeping Tropicals. Tender fishes die at a tender age. So I advise aquarists to be slightly unorthodox and to teach their fishes to be the same. To those who would argue that fishes will not grow fast in an overcrowded tank my answer is "Who wants them to grow fast?" Small fishes are quite as attractive as the big 'uns, and in some cases more so. Besides they eat less !!

M. C.Mash.

A TANK OF BARBS

By G. Willis

For some considerable time I had promised myself the luxury of a Community Tank for BARBS only,

On Sunday, therefore ~ (I wonder, to how many of us Sunday is the Aquarists 'Home day', when we see precious little of our family, and if we should see a lot of them, consign them to-----because they will get in the way !!) - I proceeded to "have a bash."

Water, sand and plants and fish, originally in the tank, strewed the floor ~- except, of course the fish, in a literal sense! - and then the job of setting up the tank began.

Thanks to having, during the Summer holidays, purchased some balast to make a cement path, I had some stones remaining - useful to an Aquarist, but a curse to a cement mixer!' Three dozen *Vallisneria spiralis*, four varieties of *Cryptocoryne*, a clump of Hygraphils, and half a dozen Indian ferns, a bucket of sand, and six buckets of water and the Barbs home was ready. Well, there's a little more to it than that as we all know, e.g. Swabbing up the surplus water, sweeping up the spilt sand, etc.

Now for the fishes. By the time I had caught the denizens I required from the 48 x 18 x 18 tank and having made a complete wreck of it, I recovered a pair (I hope!) of *B. partipentazona*, a pair of *B. nigrofasciatus*, and a pair of *B. conchoniis* (Rosy Barbs)) From my 38 x 15 x 15, similarly I collected four pairs of *B. tetrazona* one pair of *B. schuberti* and two pairs of *B. partipentazona*, a pair of *B. nigrofasciatus*, and a pair of *B. semifasciolatus*.

From a 24 x 12 x 12 I caught without wrecking it my pairs of *B. titeya* and *B. oligolepis* (cherry and checker barbs), and from another tank an unnamed barb, erroneously called *B. cummingi* and two young *B. ticto*. To these I added my pair of *B. vittatus*, which I lost at the Annual Show, but have happily recovered since.

These make a really interesting collection and the idea might, with profit, be carried out with other fish families.

G. Willis.

COPY. FOR THE JOURNAL,

I have used the last of my, carefully nursed, Copy to complete this number, so, unless some of you get your coats off, and get down to that article, you are always promising me, there will not be an issue next month. There must be plenty you would all like to say, so why not say it through the medium of your Journal.

H. A. Giles.

R. J. FALKNER

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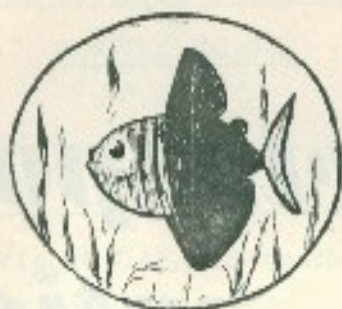
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MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL... **3**...

No.

4

November....19 **50**

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY**

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

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SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY JOURNAL

VOL,3, No. 4.

November 1950

The Society Meets at 7.45. p.m..on the FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAY in each Month ar:~

The Liberal Hall,
Clarence Road, Southend- On -Sea.

EDITORIAL.

Another year of endeavour in the Aquatic world is drawing to a close. The year has seen another big increase in the number of people keeping fishes, also in the number of aquatic societies, while due to larger imports, and more successful 'home' brooding, prices of fishes have reached such a level, that the majority of the species are within the reach, financially, of most people,

This is all to the benefit of the hobby, many would be entrants are deterred by the initial outlay required to start up,! Prices of accessories are still higher than we should like, but this is in line with the times.

It is fitting that "Water Life;" which has been largely responsible for furthering the hobby, should hold, an Open Show (In conjunction with Cage Birds.) at Olympia. in December, While the N. A. S. Show is now regarded as THE Show of the Summer. "Water Life" intend to make their's THE Show of the Winter season.. There will be Open Classes for Tropical and Coldwater fishes. Together with Classes,both individual and Club, for Furnished Aquaria

We as a Society have made little effort to capture the awards at Open Shows, But I am certain that many Members have fishes equal to, if not better than, some of the prize-winners at recent Shows. Perhaps, as a "wind-up" to the season's activities, some of our Members will enter the 'Apple of their eye' in this Show? Our Secretary will shortly be receiving Schedules, and will probably make them available to interested Members at future Meetings-.

C J.Saunders. President

ANNUAL DINNER. SATURDAY. DECEMBER 9th

Another reminder as to the date of this happy event. It will be held at the London Hotel, High Street, Southend - a very central spot for most of us ~ The Dining room will be at our disposal from 6, 30,p.m. and Dinner will be served at 7. Some six- well-known Artists have been booked for ycur entertainment, and the Tickets- will cost 10/6 each. This event is not limited to Members, so, if you wish to bring your Friends, you can guarantee them a really good meal, coupled with an entertaining evening, which will last until about 11.p.m., though anyone wishing to leave earlier, for bus or train, may, of course,do so. Speeches will will be few, and short !! Drinks of all sorts will be available, but these will not be included in the price of the Ticket, though this covers everything else, including gratuities. Tickets may be purchased from the Hon. Sec. ('Mr .H. Giles.) and please book as soon as possible, so that we can give the Hotel people good notice

MENU FOR THE ABOVE.

SOUP,
FISH,
POUL TRY, Etc,
SWEET,
CHEESE & Biscuits.
COFFEE,

JUNIOR NOTICE.

There will be a Junior Meeting at Chalkwell Schools on Tuesday NOV. 7th., when a talk will be given by Mr,Fountain, on the subject of "Spawning Mediums".

IMPORTANT

Will ALL Juniors make a point of attending this Meeting, as the important question of the proposed breaking away from the Senior Club, will be finally decided. This is of great importance to **you so come along and vote!!!**

INSTRUCTIONAL EVENING 2/10/50,

About 74 Members- attended this meeting, and most of them were, I think, quite interested. Mr.Fountain, with the aid of a battery of Microscopes, explained some of the mysteries of Infusoria, while Mr. Willis demonstrated the glazing of a 24"x12"x12" Tank. At the "Queries" table, our Hon. Advisor, Mr. M. Barnes- Oak, was kept busy answering all and sundry - he even had a queue at one time! Mr. Giles had all his gadgets spread out and told members how he makes his own Dried Food, It was a nice, cosy, informal, sort of evening, which gave Members the opportunity to get together in small groups, and tell each other about the wonderful fishes they had bred, or were going to breed!

During the evening a Member asked the President if we could have another Social. He replied that, if enough support could be found for this, he saw no reason why we should riot have one. He then asked Mr. Giles to say a word or two on the subject, as he had been responsible for running the last of these events. Our Hon.Sec. had very few words to say, and these were to the point! After the almost entire absence of Members from the last Social, he personally, would have nothing further to do with it. A vote was then asked for, by Mr.Saunders, and some 14 Senior Members signified their desire for another Social Evening. It is felt that, unless these 14 bring along lots of friends, the event will not be quite the success they anticipate,

=====

AUCTION SALE.16/10/50.

Another Club record broken! One hundred and forty five Members and Friends attended this, always popular, event,

Mr. E. Day, our genial Hon. Auctioneer, disposed of the large number of Lots (200). Prices, as usual, were varied according to the number of people wanting a certain article, some things going very cheaply, while others fetched amazing prices. However, it was ever thus, at any sort of Auction Sale, and the Club Funds will benefit by the usual 10% deducted from the sale prices.

Members- please note that their cash will be paid to them by Mr.Cooke (Hon. Treasurer) at our NEXT MEETING. which, as you all knew, will be at the Liberal Hall, Clarence Rd Southend, on WEDNESDAY November 1st, .

=====

By the way, folks, I am still in need of **COPY** for the Journal!!'

H. A. G.

LETTER FROM A NEW MEMBER

While it is not our habit to publish letters from Members, we feel that we are justified in this instance, if only to refute an unfair remark, made at a recent meeting.

"Mountvlew" ,
Waverley Crescent
Wickford
14/10/50.

Dear Mr, Secretary,

At the Instructional Evening on October 2nd I thoroughly enjoyed same, until the matter of Social evenings arose, and even then, a somewhat heated moment seemed to cool off, O.K. - but, as a new Member of two months standing, I must say I greatly deprecate the remarks from a Member at the rear of the Hall, who stated that new Member have said that they received no help or useful advice from Members of long-standing, these Members aparently keeping their knowledge to themselves.

Quite contrary to this, I have found things just the opersite, (sic) having asked many questions since joining, and in return, receiving most helpful Answers.:

I can only assume that the Member who said this has never belonged to any other Aquatic Society ~ I have ~ and I consider the Officers and fellow Members of the Club, are extremely cooperative,

Constructional criticism is always very useful - and a Member has a right to have a "moan" -but let's keep "cattiness" away from fish— they don't agree !

Yours sincerely,

C,Villion.

=====

We feel that, if proof of Mr,Villion`s words were needed, the queue of Members, new and old, at Mr, Barnes~ Oak' s" Queries" table at the last Instructional Evening, will epeak for itself.,

=====

REPTILES AS PETS., No. 1. THE SLOW WORM.

By F.B. Ancock._

The number of "cranks" (as they are termed, by the unconverted) who are taking up these, most interesting, (and also greatly reviled and despised, creatures.) is constantly increasing, and in the hope of being of assistance to some of these, and also in the hope of bringing some more into the fold,, I am writing this short article, "in sure and certain hope" as the Good Book says-

We have two distinct kinds in this country, Snakes and Lizards - I am not dealing with Amphibians in this article, although, of course, they are also Reptiles. The first member is the Slow Worm, or Blind Worm, both most unfortunate terms, since they are neither slow or blind, as one speedily discovers, when out gathering them - anything quicker than a Slow Worm, once he spots you cannot be imagined.

He makes an ideal pet, being most gentle and "nice", asking nothing more in the way of accomodation than an old Aquarium, fitted with a closely fitting lid of perforated zinc, or perhaps better still, a well-made box, with a glass front, and a removable lid, with perforated zinc for ventilation.

He is easily fed, earthworms and slugs being his main diet, but keep him well fed if you have Lizards in the same box, otherwise he is likely to include them in his diet, as I have found out, to my cost, when I have forgot ten, or been unable to supply the main diet, through being away on my numerous herpatological (Good word, that!) excursions.,

I should explain-here, that herpetology is the name given to the cult of Reptile keeping, a formidable word which instils respect into those misguided people who regard Reptile lovers as candidates for the nearest Mental Hospital - we don't use that hateful word "Asylum" now!

If you wish to capture your own Slow Worms or Lizards they abound in dry, sunny places at the edge of woods, and can be found under peices of old corrugated iron ~ a very favourable haunt of both varieties - and should be picked up very gently and carefully by the neck, otherwise you will be left with a lively piece of tail in your hand, and the Slow Worm. vanished I! That is why he is called, by the elect, *Anguis fragilis*~ The Fragile One, Contrary to popular belief he is not a Snake although he looks like one, and is often killed on that account, he is a legless Lizard, and I have had the utmost difficulty in convincing people of this. The Slow Worm brings forth its young alive, in the late Summer, even in the Autumn (I have had

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REPTILES AS PETS, No 1, THE SLOW WORM.

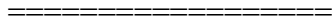
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two very healthy families arrive this week, one of nine and the other eleven pretty little chaps, two inches long, bright yellow, with a black stripe the whole length of the body)..

Slow Worms vary in colour, from black even a beautiful blue has turned up, now and again as I have remarked before, they make ideal pets for children and soon become very tame. Now that winter draws near , they should be supplied with plenty of dry moss, for hibernation, and the box, or Aquarium placed in an out-house (not left in the open) where they will rest contentedly until the early Spring.

Finally, if this little article interests any Fellow Member to the extent of wishing to take up keeping these most lovable of all British Reptiles, I shall be delighted to give any assistance or advice to any such converts and show them my way of doing things, at my Home at Hadleigh,

F, B, Ancceck .



ANOTHER FISHY STORY

At a recent meeting Mr.J,Cowan, our well-known Coldwater 'fan' asked Mr, Fountain to let him have six Frames which he could glaze himself. A few days later,Maurice Sherman obligingly cycled some seven miles and presented Mr.Cowan with a jar containing six FLAMES !!! This was aparently such a shock to Mr. Cowan, that he imediately broke into verse, which we have pleasure in reproducing,herewith,

A MISUNDERSTANDING

"I'm a coldwater fan,	"	I'm a coldwater fan,
I only asked for frames	"	I don't want six young FLAMES
I didn't want warm water fish	"	I don't want half a dozen fish,
Tropicals for shame	"	And everyone the same,
Maurice cycled with them	"	I like to see a difference,
Seven miles he came	"	And give thwem each a name
I had to `bus them back again	"	Please someone give me
Six unwanted flames	"	Half a dozen Frames

John W, Cowan,

THE FASCINATION OF FISH CLUBS,

by John E. Edwards,

(Mr. Edwards is the Editor of the Thames Valley Aquatic Society's Journal, and under a scheme of mutual assistance, we swap "Copy" for our respective Journals. It is with grateful thanks that I reproduce his article herewith,) H..A.Giles,

=====

I wonder why it is that grown, and fully matured men and women of all walks of life join an Aquarist Club, and give up, what must be valuable, and possibly limited spare time, to listen to long, and maybe, quite technical lectures and debates on fish species? We're perhaps not quite so concerned about the "fish breeder"; the man who keeps Cold water or Tropical fish in a big way. He quite obviously gets a kick out of perfecting one particular strain, He likes to mix with others of similar ideas. He wants to learn from the successes, or failures of others; to swap fish, and maybe , and maybe to boast a little.

Then there is the person who becomes an "Officer of the Executive Committee". How grand that sounds! And what hard and thankless work it can turn out to be. but there is some glory in being the "Big shot", the Chairman, or (directing letters to people who will have to spend their time answering them, probably with a curse on their lips) the Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Editor and all the rest ! There is some small pride in holding down these jobs and seeing one's name in print, or on notepaper for the first time. Perhaps we can understand this chap, after all.

Then there is the person who simply loves public meetings, and all that goes with them, We can always pick him out first time, because he glories in proposals, amendments, etc., and can be counted upon to second anything with relish, and without any thought at all. He is probably at his best when, at long last, he gets a chance to stand up before the assembled multitude and threaten to resign over some obscure matter of 'principle'. The brief limelight is his, and he retires to bed a happy and contented man, that night. Ofcourse the best answer to him is to accept his kind offer, and to pass on to other business,

We all know the mystery man, or woman, who never misses a meeting; will always be on time, is never known to publicly utter a single word; is the loudest applauder of them all at the slightest known provocation, and strangely enough, is never known to produce a fish at a Table show, and, for all that may be known, possibly hasn't a single minnow in stock at home.

But the "Wonder" person is the ordinary member. This one always turns up if humanly possible; is the first to pay his sub, or any other awful artifice the Club may concoct, to extract 'filthy lucre' from the ordinary member.

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THE FASCINATION OF FISH CLUBS!.

Contd. From overleaf.

He, or she, for that matter, will undertake any menial task such as sweeping up, handing out paper, collecting anything required, and serving tea and cakes, They will do this with all the goodwill in the world, and appear to get an honest kick out of it. He never says much, and is very easily led. Very seldom asked to do anything important, and yet this is the ever smiling face which is seen at club meetings in thousands throughout the country. What is more, where would the Chairman and Officers of the Executive Committee be without them?

I have given the question of this last member considerable thought. After all, apart from visiting a large number of societies, and as a Committee "bloke" I've had plenty of opportunity to study him. In my opinion, right or wrong, he finds something that is lacking in everyday life. For instance, a very large number of club supporters have been in the Forces during the War, and even if they didn't exactly enjoy life, at least they learned the true lesson of "Comradeship", Without this human society could not exist. We find it to the full in the really good fish club. We learn again the nice feeling of being of use, of serving, or helping a Club or Comrade in some way. We learn to be known by our Christian names again, and realise how much more real and dignified this can be than by any other title. No one calls you by your first name until you are accepted as a good "Bloke", but you've really earned your spurs when you achieve a name such as "the thin man", "the fat man", "lofty", "stinker", or "horse face". In a fish club this can be as good as an accolade. It is very true to say that the Commercial Traveller is a most useful and human type, without whom business just could not be carried on. It is very. He is truly the "Knight of the Road", just as "fat men" and "thin men" are the "Knights of the Fish Club".

Good luck to them one and all!

John. E. Edwards

LEIGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW 4/11/50

As usual, we have been asked to put a small show of Tanks in this popular event held at St. Clements Hall Leigh and if any Member cares to assist in any way, we shall be very grateful. Offers of Tanks, plants, or fishes, on loan, will be useful, also will be some Stewards to answer the usual questions from the Public. The setting up will be done on the Friday evening, and the breaking down, after the Show on the Saturday. This is great help in advertising our Club, So please let us have your names at the next meeting.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

In view of my impending retirement from Office, at the end of the year, and also in view of expressions of surprise from several Members, I feel a little explanation may be appreciated. I am resigning for three reasons, the chief of which is that the time required to do the job properly, is causing me to neglect other duties, Secondly, I have the impression that I no longer have the confidence of some of our Members - which makes my position untenable. Lastly, the Society is now on it's feet ~ it is no longer the case of 'the sinking ship'.

When I became President, three years ago, the Society had a paper Membership of 50, an attendance at the monthly meetings of 15, and assets valued at some £30. Today our paper Membership is nearly 200, attendance at our fortnightly meetings averages around 70, and our assets are in the region of £200, This build up has been the direct result of sheer hard work by the Committees of the past three years, supported by a hardy band of Members, and the Club is in a sound, healthy position, which should readily be maintained by the future Committee,

It has been suggested that a Rule should be drafted to ensure that a small number of Committee men remain on the Committee for more than one year, so that there is always a nucleus, conversant with the workings of the Society, to assist in carrying on the good work. This appears to be a good idea and is usual in many societies - if it is to become a Rule the necessary Notice of Motion must be given to the Hon. Sec. at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting,

I hope this effort may clear the air, and prevent any misunderstanding.

C. J. Saunders.
President

=====

ON THE SUBJECT OF COPY!!!

Once again I have to make a plea for Copy. I know. I must seem a nuisance, but it is quite impossible to keep on thinking up something fresh every month, without the help of you Members. We now have a great many new Friends with us, so come along and tell us of your experiences - no matter how raw they may seem - don't be shy, someone will get some pleasure from reading about them. If you are uncertain of your literary style we will try to lick it into shape - our's isn't so good, anyway!

H.A. Giles.

NOVEMBER 1st VISITING LECTURER

This is important, if only because. it will be the first meeting on a **WEDNESDAY** evening, in our new Head-quarters, **THE LIBERAL HALL, CLARENCE ROAD, SOUTHEND.**

We have a lecturer coming, from the F, B,A, S. to give us a talk on "**TROPICAL KEEPING**", His name is- Mr, M. RIDDLE. so keep ycur eye on the date.

=====

NOVEMBER 15th PLANTS AND THEIR USES

A very useful talk, this, especially to the newer Members. So often do we hear of beginners being sold lots of high-priced plants without having the least idea as to whether they are necessary, or not, Specimens of as many varieties cf Aquatic plants- as possible, will be on show, and their uses carefully explained. It is possible that some of these will be sold after the talk .

=====

DECEMBER 6th,..ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Without doubtif the. most important meeting of the year, from a business point of view.. This is the time to make your decisions as to the Officers whom you wish to represent you on the Committee for 1951. The vote for these will be, as before, by paper ballot, and before we can do this, we must have ycur Nominations, so that the ballot papers can be made out. A form is enclosed herewith, so that you may let me have these, and the only thing to be remembered, when filling this in, is, that the person nominated, must first have been asked to stand, and agreed. You may nominate one person, or as many as you wish,

I would point out, here, that the whole of the present Committee vacate their offices at the year-end, and the only Members willing to stand for re-election are :-

Mr,M, Barnes-Oak (at present Hon., Advisor.)

Mr.M.C.Maeh. (Now Hon.Librarian.)

Mr. W. Hoare

Nominations must be in my hands by 25/11/50, together with any suggested Amendments to existing Rules,

H. A. Giles,
Hon, Sec.

R. J. FALKNER

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MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL... **3**... No.

5

December...19 **50**

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY**

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

All Enquiries:

Hon. Sec.: H. A. GILES, 72, SANDRINGHAM ROAD, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

SOUTHEND .LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARISTS SOCIETY.

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

VOL. 3. No. 5

DECEMBER. 1350.

The Society meets at 7.45.p.m, on the FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAY in each Month, at:-

The Liberal Hall,
Clarence Road, Southend-on-Sea.

EDITORIAL.

This is in the nature of a farewell, being the last time, at any rate for the present, that I shall be contacting Members as Editor of the Journal, and as President.

My three years of office have been pleasant ones, and many are the happy memories I shall have to think on, in the future. It has been my good fortune to work with some excellent Committee men, alive, energetic, and always willing to 'have a go`

It must be borne in mind that a Society, such as ours, must never hesitate - it must go forward otherwise it will go back; there is no resting on previous laurels, and I sincerely hope that my successor and his men will continue and improve the present policy of the Club, and maintain its present rate of progress.

Very many, and grateful thanks to the past Committees and to the staunch Members who rallied round in the difficult times, best wishes to all of you, in the future, and, as this will be the last Journal before Xmas, a Happy Festive Season, and a Prosperous New Year to everyone.

Cheerio friends,

C.J. Saunders President

FROM YOUR HON: SECRETARY

For a year now, I have been writing to you - pleading with you for Copy, getting-my dates all wrong, and generally annoying all of you - and the time has now come, for me to lay aside the Secretarial Pen, and to let someone else have a go!. It is not without much thought, and real regret, that I say "Farewell" to you as Hon.Sec., but for the safe of my health, and business, - I needs must.

It has been said that I am letting the Club down, by doing this, but, on the contrary, I feel that I have,with other `old` Members, done my little bit to build the Society up to its present strength, having been a Member for nearly four years and a Committee man for over three of them, Starting as Social Secretary, and passing on to Vice President. I finally worked my way **down** to that man of all jobs- the Hon. Sec.

It has been a lot of fun ~ building something always is — and there have been some disappointments, but on the whole, it is with very real regrets, that I say :-

Cheerio Fol ks

H. A. Giles.

COMING EVENTS.

WEDNESDAY.DECEMBER 6th. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

I have mentioned this before, but it is such an important date to Club Members that I feel I should remind you once again. Voting for your new Committee will take place, do come along, and do your bit.

SATURDAY,DECEMBER 9th. ANNUAL DINNER.

This, to the older Members, needs no advertiding, because they will all recall the happy times we have had at these functions, in the past. There will be six Artists to entertain you, after the meal, and as an additional 'treat` the Ccmmittee have unanimously agreed that sufficient wine shall be bought, to allow for one glass per head for the purpose of the Toasts. This will be included in the cost of the Tickets, which, as I mentioned before.will be 10/6. EVENING DRESS WILL NOT BE WORN !!

DONATION OF A TANK TO THE P.D.S.A. In response to an appeal for a donation, from the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals, your Committee have decided to send them a Tank, furnished, for their Xmas Bazaar. I am sure that all Members will heartily endorse , this gift, to such a worthy cause,

MR. RIDDLE, ON TROPICAL KEEPING. I/11/50.

This meeting was notable, inasmuch as it was the first in our new Headquarters, 75 Members were present, and I believe all except one, thoroughly enjoyed an interesting — and entertaining talk by Mr. Riddle, the F. B. A. S. Lecturer, on the subject of breeding and keeping tropical Fishes.

Starting with the Livebearers.(for the benefit of the Learners)' he went on to the more difficult Egglaysrs, and I feel that many of us will have picked up some useful tips.

One interesting point was his idea of finding out, when possible, the conditions under which each particular Fish lives in it's Native habitat, and then doing our best to reproduce those conditions in our Tanks, The Neon Tetra, for instance, lives in the upper reaches of the Amazon, where the water is covered with floating vegetation, and the trees darken the surface of the river, He suggested, therefore, that we cover the sides and back of our Tank with black or brown paper, and the front with a couple of layers of tissue - with perhaps not more than a 15 Watt,lamp over tha Tank,

Spring is the best time of the year for breeding,most things, because that again, is Nature's own time. Mr. Riddle's style was very friendly, and informal, and at one time he had us all laughing at his very humourous description of the feeding problem, saying that the younger members of the family will feed the Fishes at all odd times, usually to show their friends-with the result that the sand goes black, etc. Then Father says, in a haavy tone, "I'll feed the fishes, in future, with the result that they starve for a week ! Our Lecturer than replied to many questions, and would have been quite happy tc have gone on doing so - but the President had to call the Meeting to a close at 10.15,p.m. as Mr.Riddle had to drive back to Hendon, with his Wife,who had also visited us, Mr. Brocks then proposed a vote of thanks, which was heartily endorsed by all.

H. A. Giles.

.SERVICE..

In response to an S.O. S. from tha Children's Sunshine Home at Shoebury, Mr.Barnes-Oake and Mr.Giles went along to clean up, and generally help them with an Aquarium, which had been presented to them by the Southend Bowls Club. Our Hon.Advisor took alcnng some plants, among which was a fine Amazon Sword, and the Tank looked very fine when it was set up again. It is small services cf this nature that oil the wheels of Life, for others,

THE LEIGH HORTICULTURAL SHOW.4/11/50.

As usual we were asked by this band of flower-lovers, to take part in their Chrysanthemum Show, with a display of Tropical fishes. This we agreed to do, and volunteers were help set up
As usual, to take part in Tropical Fishes, appealed for, to help set up the show. A small number of tanks were offered, * in all, from a club numbering nearly 200 members!!

The usual band of workers were there until closing time on Saturday, answering the multitude of questions, that one always gets asked at these functions, and the show was an undoubted success, at least from the public's point of view.

We were indebted to Mrs. Outing for the loan of a tank of young Wagtail Platies, while Mr. Barnes-Oak's Tanks of young Angels, in three stages of growth, almost stole the show, and Mr. Fountain was kept very busy answering the many queries about them

Thanks were due also, to Mr & Mrs Cooke, M. Sherman, G. Hedges, and J. Cowan (who loaned us his beloved Fantails). All helped to make the show a success.

H. A. Giles.

=====

MEETING ON MONDAY, 15/11/50 PLANTS AND THEIR USES.

65 Members were present when the President opened with announcements re the Annual Dinner (when Informal, Dress will be worn.) and the A.G.M. He asked for more nominations for Committee men, but, unfortunately, these were not forthcoming. Mr. Barnes-Oake then gave a very interesting talk on Tropical Plants, illustrated by two very fine Tanks, containing many named varieties of Plants. One interesting point he made was that *Vallisneria* and *Sagittaria* will not always do well together in the same Tank, he also mentioned that Blue Algae, and others, can be cleared from a Tank by growing Blanket-Weed, but I sometimes wonder how one subsequently clears the Blanket Weed !! Oxygenating plants he mentioned, were *Vallisneria*, *Sagittaria*, *Elodea*, Hairgrass, while the more decorative ones included *Ludwigia*, *Cryptocoryne*, Indian Fern, and of course, the Amazon Sword.. Spawning mediums, he went on, include *Myriophyllum*, Hair grass, Water Hyacinth (roots) and also the roots of the floating Indian Fern..

At question time Mr. Barnes-Oake said that he had grown plants in almost any type of medium, including Coal-dust and even Ground glass !! In reply to another question, he said he thought that the cause of *Cryptocoryne* rotting away, was that it was probably planted too deeply.

Contd on Page 52

THE JOYS (?) OF A COMMITTEE MANS LI FE !

We are publishing, below, a copy of a letter, received from a Member, after the very interesting, and entertaining meeting on November 1st,, when Mr.Riddle gave us his talk on Tropicals,
The Members of the Committee being unanimously/ disgusted with the tone of the letter, have, under Rule 15, asked the Gentleman to resign.

We make no apology for the somewhat unusual grammar, as the letter is reproduced verbatim.

333, Westbourne, Grove,
Westcliff-On-Sea
Essex

2/11/50

Mr,Giles
Dear Sir,

I feel I must write and ask you to put this letter before your committee,And also I feel that until such times as the club is run on a better system, I shall take no further part in same, I will draw your attention on a few of the items that has made me do this.

The meeting last night was called for 7,45, and commenced app 8pm a lecture was given to 9,pm. an interval until 9,30 for refreshments was then made, questions was then asked to 10.15 pm when I drew. Mr Saunders attention to the time, and it was then closed, you write in your Journal what is to take place at these meetings, for instance you asked all Juniors to attend regarding breaking off from the adults, what happens they attend but there is no time for this matter. I maintain that the whole system of this club is wrong, it should be worked entirely to a timetable to start at the time stated shorter interval, certain time for Lecture and questions, and also club business, the whole would then finish before 10 pm.

I mentioned some meetings ago about a social, and it was put off to the next meeting, but what happens, nothing more is heard of same, and so things go on, you also state that the club has a balance of £200 yet it is still after more, why when all this rronney is standing idle is a high figure of 10 percent deducted at an auction sale, was this amount deducted from the Juniors? In conclusion you now have the meetings at Southend and did you look around to see how many members- from Leigh and district was there. I state again something is deffinitely wrong and matters should be put right by you committee, and put the club on a proper basis, when it is I will again attend.

Yours faithfully,

E. Bak er.

THE NOT SO UGLY DUCKLING,

by P. Blomfield

In July I decided to make a second attempt to spawn a pair of Cherry Barbs (*Barbus titteya*.) purchased a year earlier as six month olds, and one Friday evening I set to and emptied a 24" x 12" tank which, after a thorough cleansing with fresh water, was allowed to stand for an hour filled with a fairly strong permanganate solution.

I should explain, at this juncture, that the previous evening, much to my disgust, a pair of Chequer Barbs' (*Barbus oligolepis*) had spawned in one of the community tanks, choosing as the chief centre of their activities a clump of *Ambulia*, The other inmates spent a happy hour or so, foraging therein for the eggs, and apart from some disappointment, I thought no more about it.

However, as this *Ambulia* had obviously suited the amatory designs of the *oligolepis*, I thought that the Cherries might possibly be similarly stimulated. So I removed the clump and after a thorough washing under the cold tap, placed it in a weak permanganate solution, to remove the various organisms which, we are sometimes told, just love to ruin, what at first might appear to be the spawning of a lifetime.

The chosen tank was duly emptied of and filled to some 5" with fresh water, and the *Ambulia*, after a final washing, again under the also introduced.

The Cherries duly did their stuff on the following morning, were removed after a couple of hours, and my Wife and I spent the next 36 hours studying the quite large number of eggs which were visible, and alternating between the optimistic hope of a fair brood and the pessimistic conviction that they would never hatch,

However, our fears proved groundless and soon the Fry were being subjected to the usual steady drip of revolting looking fluid, which brings a smile to the face of the Aquarist over his microscope, and a wrinkling of the nose, and a pained look of martyrdom to his wife, attempting to produce a more pleasing aroma from the kitchen. mere pleasing aroma from

It was not until the third week that it became apparent that there was a "foreign body" in the brood. This became the focus of our attention until a week or two later it was obvious that a single egg from the *oligolepis*, in the community tank, having under gone a.....
app ar e r t t ha t t her e became the focus of it was obvious that a single egg *Oligolepis*, in the community tank.

Cont.d. Overleaf

THE NOT SO UGLY .DUCKLING,

Contd. from Overleaf,

permanganate bath and two cold showers, had survived to produce quite a creditable specimen of it's kind.

While this may not be the accredited method of producing *Barbus oligolepis* it does rather show, that the eggs of this species, at least, are far from delicate.

P. Blomfield.

OUR LIBRARY.

For the benefit of new Members, and as a reminder to the older ones, I would point out that we have the following Books in our, rapidly growing Library. They may be borrowed, from our Hon. Librarian, for the modest sum of 4d. . per fortnight.

S,L.A.D.A.S. Monthly Journal Vol.1. (Bound)'

Innes Exotic Fishes. (3 Copies.)'

Innes Coldwater Fishes.

Life and Love in the Aquarium.

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Tropical Aquaria.

Fishponds and Home Aquaria.

Keep an Aquarium.

Water Life, Vols. I, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

In addition, there are several smaller Books, which may be borrowed for 3d. per fortnight. So do not forget to make use of this Club amenity.

LET'S BE NATURAL

After having read, in various Fish literature, so much of the difficulties in preventing the adult Zebras from eating their eggs and Fry; and the necessity for special precautions in the tank, i.e., perforated zinc bottoms, large rounded stones, marbles, etc., it was with no little trepidation that I (quite a beginner) decided to get back to nature,

Using a 24 x 12 x 12" tank, I packed nearly half of it with "Maretail" from a friend's pond. This really did need thorough sorting and washing, to rid it of its undesirable pond life, but an hour in the sink with a pair of tweezers and a final wash with permanganate of potash, sweetened it nicely. A normal compost bottom, about an inch deep, nine inches of tap water (was this going to be too deep?) a temperature of 73 to 80 degs, and we were ready; at least I was, and I hoped the Fishes would feel the same way about things.!

A plump female and a sprightly swain were chosen, and introduced one evening, at dusk. Thenceforth their behaviour was not at all energetic, they lurked in a corner. (there's no other word for it) barely deigning to "come and get it" at meal times, but I suppose that's how they must have felt. Now I expected to see a really marked slimming of the female, after spawning but, although I kept an eye open I missed the "happy event" (she evidently wasn't slimming, this Autumn!) and the first sign I had, was, on the sixth day after setting up, Father taking a delicate morsel of his progeny for lunch!!

Father and Mother, at least, so I reckoned,
Came out of the Tank, that very same second,
And tho' I looked carefully o'er bottom and side,
Five baby Zebras, were all that I spied,

By evening I could count 9, and decided to sleep on it, before passing judgement. Next morning I was quite pleased when I could count some 50 or 60 either free-swimming, or clinging to the side of the Tank (mostly the latter,) and thought, that's not so bad., after all. A couple of days later I reckoned, as a very fair estimate, there were 100 to 150 free-swimming Fry, and I was quite happy with the result. Missing the Spawning, itself, meant that I had no Infusoria ready, but the young 'uns thrived on a drip of egg-yolk, until the lettuce culture got going.

Contd overleaf

LET'S BE NATURAL.

Contd.from overleaf.

Micro worms then came into play, and the rate of growth seemed phenomenal, and at the end of the fourth week, the larger of the fishes were about 1" long. Dried food also played its part, and this went down in a big way (Thanks to our Hon. Sec., for his really good recipe.).

I'm pleased I was successful, because I don't like (and I'm sure the fishes don't, either !) the artificial device such as zinc bottoms, and breeding traps, and although this little episode may be common-place to the expert, let's hope it interests the tyro, like myself, who is slowly "feeling his way", and anyhow it's great fun.!

A, Scragg.

(Editor's note:- Mr.Scragg is a Member of only just three months' standing. This is the spirit that makes for a successful Club,)

MEMORY .

by E. Day.

What an extraordinary thing one's memory is ! It has been likened , many times to a gramophone record, but really that is a very poor analogy. True, both 'pick up' impressions, which can be 'stored up', and 'brought back' from time to time, Such impressions, too, will gradually deteriorate in the course of time, and both memory and records can be shattered in an instant, when sufficiently drastic occurrences take place. These items, however; just about complete similarities.

Memory can play tricks which are completely outside the possibilities of a gramophone record. For instance the mind will bring to light a remembrance, so garbled that it is almost unrecognisable. No self-respecting record will do this, and perhaps it is a pity it is unable to convert the cacophony of "hot music" to the aesthetic tones of a Beethoven Sonata, but that has nothing to do with this article! Then again, how strange it is that one can remember incidents in detail, which occurred 10, 20, 30, 40 and even more years ago, and yet occurrences of a week ago will not come to mind. Impressions of the poignant details of pain and unhappiness are largely obliterated naturally, whilst happy occasions are retained by the mind with all clarity, for many years.

Contd. Overleaf,

MEMORY,

Continued from overleaf.

Yes-, certainly a wonderful part of the human anatomy, but how unreliable !

At this stage I am sure you are all wondering what all this has to do with our hobby. Well..... I have come to the conclusion that our Members have phenomenal memories. Or is it that they 'Know it all'? If either of these conclusions are incorrect - and I am sure they are - why, oh! why, do we not see a display of note-books at our Lectures and other instructional evenings? Mr. Riddle's talk was so full of pertinent information. I wondered whether many of his enthralled audience wished they had brought the means to record much of the detail he imparted. Then, upon reflection I realized that I have never been aware of Members at any Meeting making notes. Why is this? Do they despise the humble note-book, is it too much trouble, or are they self-conscious? Surely much of the benefit of the very considerable instruction, given during the year, is wasted through the imperfections of our minds. Let us get all the value we can through the auspices of the Society, and when one thinks of it, there is scarcely a meeting when a note-book would not be useful.

A verbatim record is not necessary, or desirable, just a few words to cover points of particular interest or importance. Then why not transfer these words to an indexed book so that they may be more readily referred to? Such a book of reference will rapidly gain in value, and the small effort required will never be regretted, and don't forget to bring a pen or pencil! Oh ye si I nearly forgot! Don't forget to keep those breeding records to which Mr. Riddle referred. Nobody could possibly remember all the relevant details.

E.G. Day,





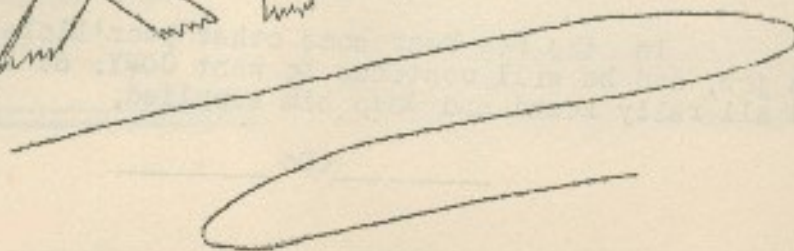
THE MEMBERS OF THE
RETIRING COMMITTEE
OFFER THEIR

SINCERE WISHES

TO

ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
FOR A

HAPPY
XMAS.



PLANTS AND THEIR USES.

Contd,from page 44

After the usual interval for a cup of tea and a chat, our President took up the talk where Mr. Barnes-Oake left off, saying that little had been left him to talk about !

In his opinion, one of the many varieties of Hornwort is tropical, *Saggitaria*, being a heavy 'eater' is very useful for helping to keep the sand in a Tank, clean. He then went on to say that *Elodea crista*, a very fine pond plant, appears to change completely, when grown under Tropical conditions-. The most important food for plants, in his opinion, is LIGHT, and plenty of it ! His favourite mediums for spawning are Blanket weed, and Bladderwort, An interesting point he mentioned was that *Ludwigia* will grow in coldwater, and, being a Bog-plant will grow right out of the water, also, Mr. Saunders then warned Members not to use plants from ponds unless a long period of disinfecting can be allowed for. as all sorts of dangerous pests can be introduced in egg form.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr, Fountain and Mr, Barnes-Oak for the loan of the Tanks and the excellent collection of Plants,

S.L, A.D. A, S, EXCHANGE AND MART.

For the benefit of New Members this is a useful medium for the disposal of anything surplus in the hobby, and also for making known your wants, We charge 1/-- per Month, to help towards the cost of the Journal, which as you all know, is issued free.

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YOUNG PERMA BLACK MOLLIES,

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In the New Year some other poor 'Bloke' will be doing this job, and he will continue to want COPY, So I hope you will all rally round and keep him supplied,

H. A. Giles.

R. J. FALKNER

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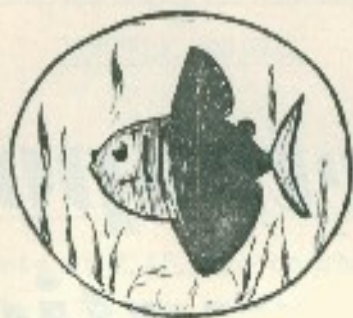
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MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL... **3**...

No.

6

January.....19 51

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY**

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

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SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

Vol. 3. No 6.

January 1951

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m. on the FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAY in each month, at:-

The Liberal Hall, Clarence Road, Southend-On-Sea

EDITORIAL

The Editorial Pen having been delegated to me as one of the duties of the President of our Society, I take great pleasure in greeting members, old and new, from my dual seat. .

Following Jack Saunders will be no easy task, for his services to this Society are so well known that I do not need to enumerate them here, but, having prevailed upon him to accept the official post of Honary Advisor, we may indeed count ourselves as fortunate .

Policy for the coming year is clear cut and definite. The members of the Club will have their say in all activities, and free comment: is invited at all times. An unkind spirit of "back-biting", to use a slang term which we all understand, has marred the good work of the past year.

All committee men, both past and present, are your good servants, and are ready and willing to do your Club full justice, and although inevitably every member cannot be suited every time, every one is entitled to fair comments, and even the most inveterate grumbler is showing some interest in his Society: so please ventilate grievances quickly as soon as they occur- don't hoard them up to breed like bacteria. Democratic institutions thrive on healthy differences of opinion.

It is my devout wish that, in the year 1951, you will grant myself and your committee your full confidence and goodwill, that we may serve you and our hobby to our utmost.

Sincerely

M.W. Barnes-Oake, President

FROM YOUR HON: SECRETARY

Dear Members

Please let me introduce myself, for I am, your new Secretary. Should I serve you as good as our former Secretary, Mr. H. Giles, then I believe I shall have filled his shoes to the satisfaction of all. I shall endeavour to attend the needs of the Society to the best of my ability, so please don't be backward in coming forward with your queries news items and new members..

So I shall sign off wishing you all a very successful 1951.
Always at your service
S. B. Knopp Hon: Secretary

EDITOR'S NOTE.

I had hoped to include an item from our Hon, Treasurer, Mr. K. A. Escott, but at the time of going to press I learn with regret that he is incapacitated as the result of a motor cycle accident. I understand that, although Mr. Escott's injuries are quite extensive, he is making good progress, and I know that all Club members will join me in wishing him a rapid recovery, and we look forward to having him in our midst again.

FOOTNOTE TO EDITOR'S NOTE .

I am quite sure that our Hon. Treasurer's recovery would be expedited were I able to convey to him the happy news that ..all outstanding subscriptions had been paid. !!!

Pages 54, 55, 56,& 57 are missing from our files

These early editions were found in our current (2011) treasurer Chris` loft having been stored there by his late father Dave Cheswright, who served the Society for very many years in several capacities. It would appear that Dave acquired these issues possibly from Mr Horace Giles or from a relative of his as the files also show that originally the Journal issues had been Mr Giles` personal copies.

Should anyone have the missing copies we would be pleased to hear from you
<mailto:peter.capon@yahoo.com?subject=History of S.L.A.D.A.S.>

published prices will paid for same:-

"The Aquarist"	Vol	XIII	No 2	(May 1948)
		"	No 8	(Nov 1948)
		"	No 11	(Feb 1949)
"Water Life"	Vol	XV	No 6	(Sept 1950)
		"	No 7	(Oct 1950)
		"	No 8	(Nov 1950)

=====

The following publications have been purchased for Sale by the Society, and can be obtained from the Librarian.

Show Standards	2/6d per part
Guppy Year Book	9d "
Guppy Standards	3d "
Goldfish Varieties	2/6d "

Happy reading
M.C.Mash, Librarian

COMING EVENTS.

The next meeting of the Society is "Members Own Lectures". and although I anticipate a large gathering for this popular event, there in A FURTHER AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT REASON FOR EVERY MEMBER TO ATTEND on that evening. It will be the occasion of a unique and extremely happy event, and I wish every member possible be present to participate.

Ed.

=====

GREETINGS.

Mr. C. F. Long, the Secretary of the Romford and Havering Aquarists has written to Mr. Barnes-Oak thanking him for the lecture he recently gave to members of his Club, and has asked Mr. Barnes-Oake to convey that Club's good wishes to all members of our Club - needless to say he has pleasure in doing. so.

=====

OUR CANTEEN LADIES

Do we really give sufficient thought to the differences which the "refreshment break" makes to the pleasure of our meetings? Is it not taken too much for granted? Perhaps that there is never any doubt that this service will be available makes us somewhat indifferent to the facilities which are offered and the unstinted efforts which our ladies make to please us.

They are a grand "bunch" and it is no mean thing to cater for some 50 or more people, especially when attendance is always an unknown quantity. We do not see everything for much is done away from the hall and the preparation of these most excellent eatables cannot be less than a labour of love. I do not think we men would be too pleased to have to leave the hall in the middle of an interesting talk to attend to canteen matters, but our ladies have to- and with extremely good face. There is always pleasant repartee from them, and our refreshments are passed to us with an ever ready smile – so very different to the treatment received these days at many catering establishments.

I fear that with the interests of the meeting so much in mind, some are apt to receive these kindnesses with scarcely a "Thank You", but this apparently makes no difference. Let us all say a sincere "Thank You" for a years work so well done, and for the happy atmosphere that you somehow managed to create with all the difficulties with which you have been beset. Our meetings would be much less enjoyable without you all.

This, I know, is but a small tribute for so much undertaken and so well accomplished, but the inadequacy of words does not reduce the sincerity of appreciation.

E.C.Day

IT IS RUMOURED THAT:-

The committee would like to meet the member who stated that our lady caterers' job was "a piece of cake"

The two fishes that accompanied the five loaves were:- Guppies!

REPTILES AS PETS.

No. 2. Our Native Lizards

In our previous article, we dealt with the Slow-worm which is undoubtedly a Lizard, in spite of having no visible legs, and now we pass to most delightful and nimble Lizards which possess the four legs, and most certainly know how to use them.

The commonest variety is the Viviparus Lizard, which rejoices in the name of *Zooteca vivipara*.

It is exceedingly common in most parts of England and Wales, and abounds in Essex. It frequents dry banks and heaths and although so common its capture intact is a work of art and entails considerable trouble and patience, owing to its annoying habit of leaving its tail in the hands of the would be capture, whilst the rest of the lizard has vanished "Lord knows where". It is there one moment and gone the next.!

This lizard retains its eggs inside its body until the young are ready and then either brings them forth alive or bring forth eggs and the emergence of the little fellow is only a matter of seconds. These little fellows are generally jet black, about an inch long, perfectly formed, and within the space of two or three minutes can dart about and behave with all the "sang froid" of the adult lizard. Once born the adult takes no further notice of them and they seem to be able to get going from the start and look after themselves quite comfortably. They make delightful and most interesting pets, exceedingly easy to keep, and, if provided with small worms, insects of any kind except hairy caterpillars (which they will not touch) or, at a pinch, gentles or maggots (nasty word that), will thrive wonderfully. Given a sprig of rose bush infested with greenfly, they will clean it very quickly, and I find this a very easy way to feed the babies. A shallow lid with a little milk is also greatly enjoyed. Some authorities assert that Lizards do not drink, but I know that all the varieties that I keep will polished off their milk or water like any cat, lapping it up in exactly the same way.

This lizard always grows a new tail to replace any.....

lost, but the new growth never has the same finished appearance as the original one. The vivarium should be fitted with a lightly fitting perforated zinc lid - the slightest crevice and these little Houdinis find it and are missing and off to the wilds. They appreciate a few bits of rockwork to climb over and bask in the sunlight, and the vivarium can be made to look very pretty with moss, cactus, heather etc., and a good inch and a half of coarse sand should be spread on the bottom. When October arrives they will hide in the moss and, although on a mild day they will make an appearance, I do not find that they eat, although they appreciate their milk.

In the next article I will deal with the Sand Lizard, which is far less common, and that beautiful Channel Islander, the Green Lizard, which is a really magnificent reptile and equally easy to keep.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

Two new Journal items - regular features - will be inaugurated in our next issue.

The first is a Correspondence Column, and to all inveterate readers of our 'dailies' will need no explanation. To others, we merely ask you to drop us a line on any topic that you feel is of interest, such as happenings in the Club -(sshh! did someone say gossip), or anywhere else for that matter, when your Editor will publish a selection, and later the resulting (we hope!) contradictions, challenges, etc. Members may, of course, if they wish, adopt a nom de plume,

The second new departure is to be entitled "Any Questions", or, if you so prefer, "Your Questions Answered". This again needs no explanation - just send in your aquatic queries and again, if you so desire, you may remain anonymous. The Question will appear in the Journal and I am hopeful that if any of you will forward an Answer for publication in the ensuing issue.

**REPORT ON THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY the .
3rd JANUARY. 1951.**

There were 50 members present when the new President, Mr. Barnes-Oake, took the chair. He opened the meeting at 8.05 p.m. by extending a welcome to members new and old. He assured members that the committee will endeavour to make 1951 another successful year.

The first item on the agenda was the amendments to rules. The amendments were all proposed by Mr. Hoare and seconded by Mr. Chas. Brooks and carried unanimously. Rules 3, 4, 6, and 33 were deleted and rule 7 now nominates the joining age a minimum of 18 years.

The President suggested that, in the absence of the Vice-President, Mr. Saunders should present the cheque to the new Junior Club. Mr. Saunders, in presenting the cheque re-told how helpful the then juniors had been in the past. We could only agree when he stated that, without their help, the Annual Show would not have been such a great success. The Chairman of East Essex Junior Aquarists Society, Mr. M. Hardy, accepted the cheque from Mr. Saunders, and again expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of his Club for such a fine gesture.

The special business concluded the meeting was resumed as a normal club gathering, and the members present decided on their full 1951 programme. Our President stated that the next meeting would see our dear friend Mrs. Winnie Meadows with another of her popular talks. An extra Table Show was requested, and after discussion it was decided that future Table Show tanks would be heated by tubular heaters loaned by Mr. Barnes-Oake and Mr. Fountain. This solution of the heat problem was met by general approval. It was decided that auctions in future will be attended by members only. A vote was taken and showed only two dissentients to this suggestion. Further discussion became quite heated on the question of the quality of some of the auction lots, and in a later Journal we intend to restate the Conditions of Sale, in an endeavour to obviate some of this trouble.

"Social" fans will be delighted to know that a Social committee of six volunteers was formed and a two-thirds.....

majority vote decided that our Annual Dinner will next time become an Annual Dinner and Dance.

The meeting was not closed until 10.35p.m.

S.B.Knopp, Hon Secretary.

PROGRAMME 1951

Wednesday

- | | | |
|-----------------|----|---|
| Jan. | 3 | Special General Meeting. |
| | 17 | Visiting, Lecturer, |
| Feb. | 7 | Members' Own Lectures and Quiz. |
| | 21 | Auction Sale - Members only. |
| Mar. | 7 | Table fhcw. |
| | 21 | Your Questions Answered. |
| Apr. | 4 | Visiting, Lepturer. |
| | 18 | Table Show (Guppies,, Barbs and Veils) |
| May | 2 | Judging Competition |
| | 16 | Auction Sale •- Members cnly. |
| June | 6 | Annual Show Talk . |
| | 30 | Table Show (Swords, Danios and Shu's) |
| July | 4 | Members' Own Lectures and Quiz. |
| | 18 | Show Preparaticna. |
| Aug. | 6 | ANNUAL SHOW. |
| | 15 | Annual S how Post Mortem. |
| Sep. | 5 | Visiting: Lecturer. |
| | 19 | Table Show (Labyrinths, Mollies, and Fantails), |
| Oct. | 3 | Instructional Evening. |
| | 17 | Auction Sale- Members only. |
| No v. | 7 | Visiting lecturer |
| | 21 | Table Show (General) |
| Dec. | 5 | Annual Generall Meeting. |
| Saturday | | |
| Dec. | 8 | Annual Dinner and Dance. |

PROPOSED DATES FOR EXCURSIONS FOR. 1951

- Sunday, May the 27th.
- Sunday, June the 21th, and
- Sunday, September the 23rd .

THE CAUSE OF SCIENCE - IS IT WORTH IT?

By P. Blomfield.

One Saturday recently my wife and I were browsing over our post-lunch cup of tea and gazing into one of the community tanks as one does from time to time, with nothing particular in mind, when a rather large Albino Swordtail, which had appeared to be on the point of delivery for some days, suddenly began to discharge her "litter", "brood", "swarm" - What on Earth is the fishy equivalent, anyway?

Not having any available space in any of my other tanks for the rearing of young Swords, I had not intended to try to salvage them. In fact I had been considering them, rather cold-bloodedly, as no more than a treat for a pair of Angels which are well educated in the disposal of such youngsters.

The first two babies were pounced upon and dispatched so quickly that, as my wife put it, "They were out of one fish and into another before they had time to realise that the water was wet!"

Then the thought struck me that here was a Heaven-sent opportunity to test the widely-accepted theory that Albino Sword mothers invariably eat their own young.

The fish in question was lying quite still among some stems of *Ambulia* growing along the surface, and showed no alarm when I surrounded her quietly from below with a large green net, the handle of which was then jammed so that the mouth of the net was completely above the surface.

She continued to release her offspring at regular intervals without fuss, and when we went out at about 2.50 she had had 14, and so far had shown no inclination to eat any of them. I purposely refrained from giving her any feed, which might serve to dull her appetite, if any, and when we returned at 4.30 I was not a little surprised to find 62 young swordtails in the net, with their mother, very much depleted in figure, moving purposefully around with every appearance of hunger.

However, twenty minutes later there was still a full complement of 62 babies - the number of times we counted these youngsters! The mother still showed no cannibalistic designs, although she moved amongst her offspring which were.....

resting on the sides of the net after their exhausting swim to the surface, and constantly butted the net with her head, evidently trying to get back with the other fish in the tank.

Having thus proved that this female at least did not share the gruesome reputation of her kind, there remained the problem of what to do with the results of the experiment.

My wife would not now hear of their being fed to the Angels which were positively drooling outside the net; it was certain they could not stay suspended in the tank; jam jars? - Heaven forbid! Should I wait until my wife's back was turned and have an Unfortunate accident!? But no, - possibly I too had begun to soften.

Well, the only alternative solution to a problem of this kind was to procure another tank, and it was only after we had got it home and completed the usual chaos of wiring, setting up, filling and installing the babies, that I realised that what had started as a simple experiment had ended up as quite a financial undertaking.

In addition, I think my wife has the idea that the whole thing might be a put-up job to justify another tank, and that hussy of a swordtail has a way of looking sideways at me that makes me think she has a pretty low opinion of men and their experiments - almost as if to say "You just wait and see what happens to the next lot!"

=====

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Pr, Mollys, Pr, Fighters, Various Swords, etc,

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=====

COPY

How right you were Mr,Giles - some other poor bloke certainly is doing the job, and he most certainly does and will continue to want **COPY. S O S. Members**

=====

R. J. FALKNER

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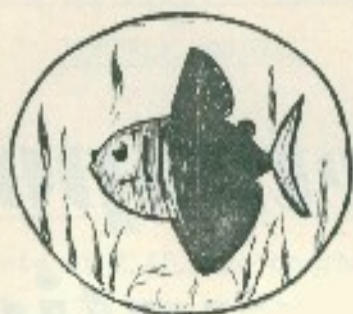
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MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL... **3**...

No.

7

February.....19 **51**

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY**

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

Communications and Contributions to:-

The Editor:- M. BARNES-OAKE, LAURELS, HAWKWELL, ESSEX

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SOUTHEND LEIGH and DISTRICT AQUARIST' SOCIETY.

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol. 3. . No. 7. .

February 1951

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m. on the FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAY in each Month, at:-

The Liberal Hall,
Clarence Road, Southend-on-Sea.

Dear Club Members,

Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend our last meeting will agree that it was a most successful gathering. The sincere thanks of all your Committee are proffered in gratitude for the way in which all members present rallied round and contributed to the general discussions.

Many of us learned a considerable amount - and a spirit of this kind is the very one we wished our Club to produce - and I am quite sure that those members who spoke will agree that it was not an ordeal at all. After all, it should, and must, give a high degree of pleasure to air your views to your friends, assured as you are of a receptive audience.

Finally, may I appeal to all these members who have not paid their 'subs' to do so. If you are one of those who did not intend to continue with us, please come along to a meeting or two and see if you like us a little better - we are hopeful!
Most sincerely,

M. W.. Barnes-Oake , President

CLUB. NEWS.

Your Ccmmittee, to stimulate interest in Table Shows, have decided to award a prize for the highest total number of points gained by any individual member. On this occasion it will be the total of the Three Shows, March 7th, April 18th and June 20th, but in subsequent periods the full year will be covered from Annual Show to Annual Show, so that the prize can be awarded on that occasion.. We hope this step will please you, and of course will knew whether it does by the resultant entries.

The next Table Show, and next meeting for that matter, will be for Characins and Platies. The new show arrangements will make it quite safe for you to bring your 'prize fellows' along, and in future the `firsts' will receive a bronze medal. The 'powers that be' have decided that I will have the honour of judging the two classes.

Whilst the judging is going on, Mr. Dunckerly, a prominent pre-war aquatict friend of mine, has premised to come and talk to you on that vital bugbear 'Aquarium Water'. Don't be afraid that it will be 'ever your head', It is purely because of his knowledge of the subject and the paramount importance of water to us all, together with his 'down to earth` delivery in the layman's language that we can all understand, that prompted me to ask him to come and talk to us.

M. W. Barnes-Oake

EDITOR'S NOTE.

The Editor wondered if the definition of 'a member` was someone who had enriched the coffers of the Society to the extent of their annual subscription. (Alright - he only said he wondered!)

By which you will gather that quite a few of our prominent and active members have neglected to do the necessary.

HAVE YOU MET TEE TREASURER?

Although I have been a member for three years, I can not claim to know everyone in our Society ~ yet.! However, by the end of each meeting I hope to get closer to this ideal.

We all want ours to be a friendly Club, where people get to know one another, and are not slow to talk to those around them. This should be fairly easy since we all have one strong interest in common.

The Treasurer's job, in particular, is made much more difficult if he spends the evening chasing around the Hall, looking for people as yet unknown to him. I shall be delighted, therefore, if at meetings members I have not met come up and introduce themselves. I will promise not to ask for the same 'sub' twice (as if I would get it!).

By the way, if your seven and six has not yet been paid for this year, it is overdue, and should be sent to :

K. A. ESCOTT, 16 Edinburgh Avenue, Leigh-en- Sea, as seen as possible.

We are extremely happy to welcome back our Treasurer, Mr, K. A. Escott, and to know that he has now fully recovered from the results of his recent accident. Those of us who responded so promptly to the President's plea for payment of subscriptions are naturally preening ourselves that we contributed to this happy state. (Seriously, though, Mr. Escott, for a man who has the interests of Club members so much at heart, don't you really think a pedal cycle is a wonderful invention.

BEGINNERS' PAGE

By M. W. Barnes-Oake.

The fish is, of course, our direct ancestor. He is the lowest form of vertebrate creature or animal with a backbone even as we human beings are the highest of the Vertebrates. Broadly, the intermediate stages in order of development are fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and finally mankind. The evolution is often very apparent if comparison is made of the young of these six with the adults of the next step lower in the scale. Most people would agree that a tadpole, for instance, is to outward appearance a fish. Further examples of course are plentiful young birds are exactly like reptiles of the prehistoric type Pterodactyls and the human baby is (dare I say it) very similar at birth to the lower mammals. Their skeletons or bony framework show even greater similarities,

All the "Orders" of fishes with which we aquarists are concerned are contained in one large group called Teleostei. Each "Order" is divided into Families and subdivided into each Genus and again into Species. Further reference will be made to names of fishes in a later article.

Fish do not have eye-lids as most of you will have observed and apart from the quaint Sea Horses, they do not boast a neck either. Even in the "scaleless" varieties of goldfish their bodies are covered entirely with scales, although in some varieties the scales have developed into an armoured plate. The scales replace themselves if broken off, and have a useful trait of telling us the age of our specimen by pairs of concentric ring markings (annually) in much the same manner as the internal rings of a tree.

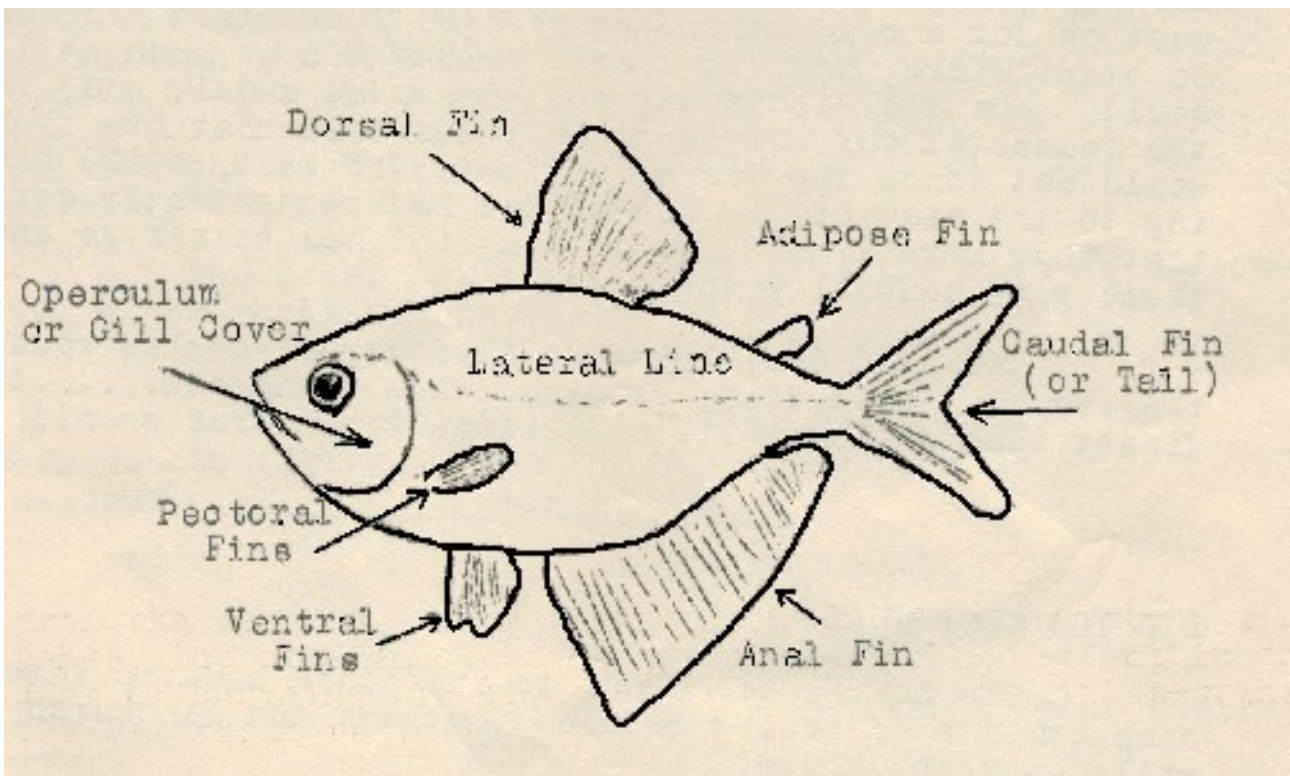
Fish have nostrils but do not use them for breathing, and, as far as we can tell, they lack the sense of smell. Judging by some infusoria cultures in fish houses this is fortunate for the fish! They do not hear as we do, - but have a complicated system of bones lying behind the "lateral" line, (a line from approximately the centre of the mouth to the centre of the tail, on the outside of the fishes body) which magnify and convey the sound vibrations to the inner ear.

Fish breathe through gills and extract oxygen from the water. Fish do not reach an age when growth finishes, but continue to grow whilst fed well - except in the case of certain male livebearers whose growth finishes when the sex organ is fully developed.

from the water. Fish do not; reach an age when growth finishes, but continue to grow whilst well fed well - except in the caae of certain male livebearers whose growth finishes when the sex organ is fully developed

Fishes have hearts, but of a very simple character, and they are "cold blooded", which is to say that they assume the temperature of the water in which we keep them.

Their degree of intelligence is very small indeed, and most of the credit for "thought must be given to the "instincts" acquired from our old friend Mother Nature.



Names of the various fins are given in above rough sketch of our own Society Badge Fish and the lateral line is indicated approximately by the faint dotted line through the body.

Well, my beginner friends, I hope that this is the type of article that will help you. If not, for goodness sake write and say so, even anonymously, so that I can give you what you want.

Cheerio, then, 'till next month.

=====

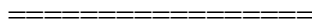
VAGARIES OF FISHKEEPING

by Penny

Recently I sold a customer- fairly new to the hobby- a pair of Siamese Fighters. A day or two later I had a phone call from him, saying that they had built a bubble nest and obviously wanted to breed – what should he do? Having told him all that was necessary about putting them down, preparing infusoria etc., I hung up the phone.

Next day he was on the phone again. He had got eggs what was the next step? I told him. This went on for a week during which time I had told him how to start micro and in short had helped him as much as I could. On the eighth day he phoned as usual, and, in the course of our conversation I was told that his fish would not touch the micro, and were, in fact, still hanging to the side of the glass, but he was perfectly certain they were fish. So I thought I had better go and see these unusual youngsters.

The next day being my half-day, I ambled round to the abode of the said fish, examined them and saw.....the finest tank of white planarians I had ever seen!!



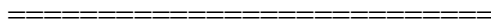
DID YOU KNOW THAT

The L.M.S. Are about to introduce aquaria into compartments of trains between Southed and Fenchurch Street -- to while away the hours !

The prevailing fashion in court circles is necklaces of strung gourami eggs.

Pieces of "The Stone of Westminster" are decorating a certain party's aquarium

A local pet shop is selling scabards for male Swordtails.



CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN

No 1.

Dear Sir

I would like to congratulate you (and your lady secretary) on the production of first number of the monthly Journal under your Editorship. Many of us have always realised what a colossal job it is to produce a magazine of this description, and duplicate upwards of 200 copies. Without being severely critical, may I point out two small errors which have inadvertently crept in, and which this letter, if it subsequently appears, would obviate any further correction. It was quoted under the proposed amendments to Rules (p. 56) that "the proposition of raising the subscription to 10/-0d per annum &c. Resulted in 59 for and 2 against after a straight vote had been taken. This should of course have been reversed as the proposition was lost by these figures. Consequently the subscription remains at 7/-6d.

The other point. is (p 57) that the cost of borrowing major books was reduced from sixpence to fourpence,

I trust you will agree that these small items need rectifying.. Wishing you every success in your endeavour

Yours faithfully

M. C. Mash

(Thank you Mr Mash - we certainly appreciate your eagle eye.)

=====

Dear Editor

I would first like to say how much I like the idea of your Correspondence Column. I think my chief reason is because; I am normally quite a retiring sort of person (I'd hate my wife to read this), and ..although I often want to have my say at a meeting, I find it very difficult to.....

get on my feet and brave the sea of turned faces with what might appear to them a paltry question or remark. Now I really feel I can overcome my complex and have my say.

I have only one real grumble. On the whole I think we are very lucky to belong to such an alive club, but I still have memories of a near riot over our lack of social activities. At that time a special committee was formed, in an endeavour to satisfy the members who were anxious to have them. Now that was some weeks ago, and the time for holding social gatherings is rapidly drawing to an end with the coming of Spring and the lighter evenings but, so far not a word as to when we are having our first social. Knowing how anxious some of our members were for these to take place I am suprised at the delay, and I am sure that many of us would like to have some news of the committees progress. Perhaps my letter, if published, will have some effect.

With all good wishes to the committee,

Yours truly,

"Old Timer"

(Social Committee quick march!!!)

=====

IT IS RUMOURED THAT:-

Angel fish are perfect devils and Devil fish are perfect angels to spawn!

The song hit for next year`s pantomine will be "Rudolf the Red-nosed Tetra"

Several of our members are taking lessons in the Charleston and the Samba in readiness for the next Annual Dinner and Dance.

M.C.M.

=====

WOMEN WERE DECEIVERS EVER (with appologies)

From time to time one reads or hears of the practice of allowing a mature pair of fishes which it is hoped will spawn to occupy opposite sides of a glass partition for a few days, the object apparently being to build up the necessary excitement and thereby ensure a good spawning, and I hope a recent experience of mine might provide some food for thought in this respect.

I purchased, on the 3rd of February, two pairs of tiger barbs (*tetrazona*) 8 months old, about three quarters grown and in splendid condition. They were placed in a new tank in freshwater, and, as I wanted them later for breeding (I hope), I partitioned the two males from the two females.

This was done chiefly so that they could undergo observation in `quarentine` for a week or so to see whether or not they had any of the frightful maladies that we hear so much about and fortunately sees comparatively little.

As I did not specially want to set up the tank properly, I left the glass bottom clear and introduced only two small clumps of hornwort so that it should not be completely bare.

The Barbs, when placed in the tank, seemed extremely nervous, and, apart from occasional wild sorties around the bottom with their noses on the glass, they spent most of their time huddled in a corner, even ignoring three dozen or so magnificent daphnia which I put in for them and which at times almost settled on their noses.

At this point, my wife, who must have been doing a spot of inspired mental arithmetic, suddenly announced that any fish that could so refuse a whole half penny worth of daphnia should have it's anal fin soundly beaten with a planting stick. Incidentally, in a quiet moment later, I thought about trying to verify the accuracy of this mathematics, but the prospect of trying to count the number of `fleas` in a bobs worth soon put me off.

It was during one of the moments when we were studying the fishes that the two females suddenly set off on one of their wild dashes round the tank, and we were somewhat shaken to see one of them leave behind a trail of what looked like small bubbles. When they didn't rise to the surface but stuck firmly to the side and bottom glass we realised that they were indeed eggs, and when the fishes had quietened down again I noticed that one of them had lost all the roe on her starboard side (right - for the benefit of all non-Z types).

It occurred to me then that if a fish can exude her eggs through some form of excitement - in this instance through fear - the stimulus of sexual excitement, which could possibly be built up by the proximity of the male through a glass partition} might have a similar effect. How infuriating, suddenly to find that the female of one's dreams (wives, please do not take offence) has given up all her precious eggs while the only means of fertilization remains on the wrong side of the partition.

If any fellow member has suffered similarly, we might perhaps indulge in mutual condolences - over the inevitable cup of tea of course, or some of you may have some views to air on the subject which might provide an answer to our Editor's plea for copy.

=====

(Extra special thanks are due to Mr. Blomfield from the Editor for his final paragraph).

=====

MEMO FROM THE EDITOR

Club members have been very sorry to hear of the very serious illness of our Secretary's wife (Mrs. Knopp). We are not unmindful of the splendid 'under ground' work she has done on behalf of the Club, and we all hope that she will make a very speedy recovery and soon be well enough to resume her 'hobby'.

=====

LIFE MEMBER

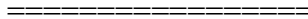
"Mr Saunders,

It is my duty, and indeed privilege, as the President of this Society, that long consideration has been given by the committee to the question of offering some tangible proof to you, sir, of the esteem in which we hold your good self, and the value we put on the great work put in by yourself to put Southend, Leigh and district aquarist society in the strong position it holds today.

After debating on the various merits of such things as a Rose Bowl or Illuminated Script and other trifles of this kind, our knowledge of your character, Sir, decided us on a very different course of action.

We have decided therefore, to create the Honary Life Membership of this Society, and to install you as the first recipient of this honour.

We felt that this would convey to you, Sir, in a way that you would appreciate, the honour and esteem we feel for you."



THIS MONTH'S HOWLER

How do you tell when a fish is on heat?

THE SAD STORY OF A SMALL SPAWNING OF NIGGER BARBS

Dedicated to Mr George Cooke

(with appologies to Agatha Christie)

by M. C. Mash

Ten little nigger barbs thought they would rise and shine
One rose above the brim and then there were nine

Nine greedy nigger barbs fed at such a rate
Another baby chocked itself then there were eight

Eight wary `nigger` saw an `Angel` sent from heaven-sent
Who sorted out the plumpest and then there were seven

Seven frisky nigger barbs showing of their tricks
A silly argued with a rock and so weare left with six

Six saucy niggers – very much alive
Until one died of noseyness and then there were five

Five of what I told you fattened more and more
One "tawt he taw a puddy tat" and then there were four

Four forlorn niggers had dried shrimp for tea
A piece got stuck inCurley`s throat which left us only three

Three shivering `Niggers` didn`t have a clue
Who wiped one to eternity- leaving just the two

Two remaining `Niggers` could hardly have much fun
The male committed suicide and so there was but one

One loan Nigger barb couldn`t find a mate
So she becoming egg-bound, Memesis fixed a date.

=====
COPY

Thank you, club members for your co-operation. I still feel, however, that quite a few of you have loads of ideas that would do well to be aired in the Journal.

How about a good spring clean members?

=====

R. J. FALKNER

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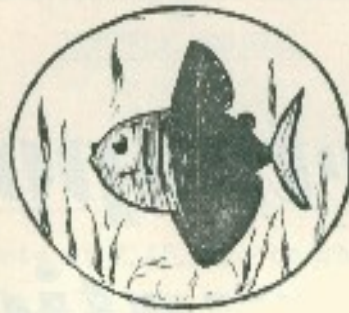
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MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL... **3**...

No.

8

March19 51

TROPICAL and
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AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

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SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol 3 No 8

March, 1951

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m. on the FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAY in each Month, at:-

The Liberal Hall
Clarence Road Southend-On-Sea

EDITORIAL

Dear Club Members

The Auction sale, as usual, was the highlight of the month's activities – with the usual high attendance. It was certainly good to see so many of our members together.

Some very interesting items were offered, but the speed, however, at which they had to be offered tended to keep the prices lower than was fair to either the vendors or the club.

Also a few of the lots went astray. Without further comment – I would say this MUST NOT happen again.

Generally there was little dissatisfaction shown by members who mattered with the arrangements for the function, but unavoidably some of our friends were not very happy.

We are sorry – but would repeat tell US (YOUR committee) NOT all and sundry.

Yours Sincerely

M. W. Barnes-Oake

President.

YOUR PLANTS

(by John LeStrange)

(By kind permission of the Editor of the THAMES VALLEY AQUATIC SOCIETY)

The question is always coming up, should we have plants in our tanks, if so why? Well, most of us `old hands` have at one time stood in a shop and waited while the chap in front of us (a beginner of course) has managed to collect around him an odd assortment of tanks, sand, heater, thermostats, thermometer, live food, dead food, and two guppies, two red swords, and one tartan molly.

Having parted up with a wad of notes and got his breathe back, he is just turning over in his mond wahet he is going to say to his wife, when the shopkeeper stuns him with something like "What about plants?"

The unfortunate fishkeeper to be rocks on his heels and meekly asks what he needs and how much he needs to fork out. He is blinded with science and a string of about fourteen latin names, followed by, "all a tenner each!" He ends up with a small exercise in mental arithmetic and plums for about a dozen assorted.

It is a difficult problem for the beginner, but I feel that plants are of more use than just for mere decoration.

Aquatic plants have a definite purpose in life, for they absorb gases that are harmful to our fish. They also supply valuable oxygen which is necessary for them. Plants feed and in doing so take some of the refuse that collects at the bottom of the tank and which in time might become a danger to the fish. They hide young fry; that is if the tank has been thickly planted out. This is why so many of us not only spawn our fishes in the community tank, also manage to save quite a number. Without the plants it would be impossible.

Many of the fish need the broad leaves of some of the plants for spawning upon. Young fry climb up the plants to obtain air, or rest on them having visited the surface. Such fish as Angels like an Amazon Sword plant for spawning,, because if it's `hairy` leaves.

Other fishes require the floating aquatics for building nests, but they will have a definite purpose in Nature's scheme.

It is said by some experts that fishes maintain their colour far better in a well planted tank, but in any case there is little doubt that they are more healthy and happy.

Now plants absorb carbon dioxide and give off very valuable oxygen. This chemical action is controlled by light and plants need plenty of concentrated bright top light. That is why it is necessary to pay special attention to lighting over the tank and the amount of daylight available during both summer and winter months.

During "club nights" the question of lighting for plants crops up again and again. Unfortunately each expert seems to have his own rules. In any case, total growth is not only controlled by light. Tank conditions, number of fish, position in the room, number and different types of plants in together all play their part.

Perhaps a good rule would be to always see that your tank has at least eight hours of concentrated top light each day. I think that dim lighting is just a waste of electricity and money. See that your tank looks well lighted and that the colouring of both fish and plants stands out, then you won't be far wrong.

There are some arguments about side lighting. By this I don't mean lighting from the sides, but the amount of daylight on the sides. One rule is this : If you want plenty of top growth, cover up the sides of the tank. Keep the water level just above the plant and increase it as the plants grow upwards. If however, you are well satisfied with your plants and want to keep them in 'Show Condition' or they are tending to become long and thin, then give them some side light.

It is said that the thicker your tank is planted the healthier you fish and plants! Certain experts tell us not to have more than two varieties of plant growing in any one tank. We hear that Giant *Sagittaria* will tend to kill off *Vallisneria*. In other words, keep one or the other but not both together.

If you want to keep a well balanced tank with a good number of growing fishes, it's best to concentrate.....

on the oxygenating plants and play safe. It is even more important if you are a coldwater fan.

The following are the best oxygenating plants:-

Sagittaria, *Vallisneria*, - straight and twisted, *Anacharis*, and *Cryptocoryne*

I use *Elodea* for my pond and for indoor coldwater tanks

Some people use earth of loam under the compost in order to encourage growth and propagation. I feel that this can be dangerous, especially with some fish that are natural scavengers and will turn over the compost in search of food and thus free the earth or loam. The water will speedily foul if this happens.

Also if any fertilising chemical are present, these will escape and endanger your fish. The least that can happen is for the pH of the water to become changed. Plants grow best in coarse sand.

What about the "Balanced Aquarium" we hear a great deal of? Well, I should hate to be drawn into an argument about it. For years we have heard about the "one inch of fish to a gallon of water" but we still don't know. It is certainly far more necessary with our coldwater friends than with tropicals. Perhaps it is just a matter of common sense!

=====

WELL I NEVER

A vegetarian member has resigned on witnessing a fellow aquarist chopping worms.

A member has paid his subscriptions for 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1955-----
the dirty plutocrat

Tommy Farr has been challenged by a Siamese Fighter

M. C. M.

OF INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS

The following is a copy of a letter received from the Exhibition Committee of the fourth Annual National Aquarium Exhibition (June 1951)

Dear Sir or Madam,

In view of many requests from Societies to include a competition for club ***** at our 1951 Exhibition, we append particulars of this novel competition in order that any Society wishing to compete will have ample time to prepare an entry.

There will be no entry fee and prizes will be awarded as follows:-

1 st prize	£1.00.0d	2 nd prize	£-.15.0d
3 rd prize	£-.10.0d	4 th prize	£-. 5.0d

This competition should be of good publicity value to the competing societies and at the same time, we will show the public the magnitude of our hobby.

The general schedule will be ready at the beginning of April from the Competition Secretary.

Yours faithfully

C. R. Macdonald

Competition Secretary

=====

CONDITIONS OF CLUB CARD COMPETITION

1. Cards may be made of any material and should be (inches square.
2. Cards must contain no matter of an objectionable nature or of detriment to another Society.
3. Cards must be the work of Society members.
4. Cards to be despatched to reach the Competition Secretary **not later than 9th June 1951**. All cards will.....

be returned

5 The judges decision will be final and entries are accepted on the understanding that entrants agree to abide by the rules.

JUDGING AS FOLLOWS

Execution	50 points
Originality	25 points
General Attractiveness	25 points

The name and address of the Competition Secretary are:-

C. R. Macdonald,76, Tudor Gardens London, W3

=====

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

When this new feature was announced, I envisaged a heavily laden postman, struggling to the door with a sack of mail; myself ably assisted by said ladt secretary dauntedly sorting out the most urgent queries-also most likely to give most assistnace to other members, and subsequently wearily working through the night, duly fortified by unending cups of tea, in a valiant effort to classift and enumerate all the said queries - the whole time urged on by the fact that "the show must go on" (sorry I meant the Journal); **BUT** – what happens, **NO** postman, **NO** questions, **NO** sleepless nights. All right members, I can take a hint, and herewith my epitaph: "**R. I. P. Mr Editor**"

P. S. I am still gambling. How about it members?

=====

DID YOU KNOW?

That the Festival of Britain management are vjealous of the "SLADAS" notoriety?

M. C. M.

LIVE FOOD SUITABLE FOR FRY.

By Mrs. Phyllis Sullivan.

It is very difficult to obtain live foods in our district, and several new members and beginners have remarked "-What can I feed my fry with, after my efforts to hatch, etc?"

The most important stage in the process of rearing cold water and egg laying tropical fishes in aquaria is the provision of suitable foods - for example, as soon as the yolk sac of the baby fish is absorbed.

This food must be small enough for the Fry to eat, for their mouths are very tiny and the solution to this problem is microscopic live food.

The size of the food required depends on the size of the Fry, which varies with the species of fish, i.e. the tiny fry of "Dwarf Gouramis" require Green water as their first food, but the minute one called Algae on which they feed are too small for most fry. The comparatively larger Fry of Gichlids, Panchax and the livebearing tropicals flourish from the beginning on small Daphnia (sifted through fine silk - old nylon stockings are best for this.)

Therefore Infusoria, Brine Shrimp (newly hatched) and sifted Daphnia are the most important foods to insure the growth of good fish.

"Infusoria" is the name given to a host of microscopic single celled organisms which occur in stagnant water, particularly among decaying matter, often in such profusion they cloud the water. There are many methods of making one's own Infusoria, as you well know, so I will not dwell on this subject; such as the Apple Snail -Potato - Hay - Water from flowers, etc. everyone has their own method. Myself, I prefer the 'Hay' method. I boil a handful of 'Hay' in water until the liquid is dark brown - dilute this liquid with water until it is a pale straw colour - allow to cool and add an equal volume ½% agar agar suspension. (To make this, obtain some agar agar (1 oz.) from the chemist and shake it up in lukewarm water - 1 oz. to 10 pints water - do not boil.)

Pour this culture medium into a number of 2 lb jars. The culture must now be inoculated with Infusoria.....

Other cultures can be made by the following:

Powdered oven dried lettuce leavee, placed in water and left to stand for a day or two form an excellent cultue medium.

Banana skin, crushed parsley, whole linseed - but remember that in each case the cultures must be infected with the Infusoria.

Get this ready before the hatching of your Fry. Should the cultures start to smell, aerate gently. When feeding this to your Fry, do not pour into the tank or it will foul - the best method is to drip it in. Buy a small pipette (fountain pen filler), take off the rubber balb and fix into length of narrow tubing, suspend over tank - glass end just touching water - rubber end about (2.ft. would do) in glass jar of Infusoria. Fix a small 'stop cock' about half way up rubber tubing - this can be tightened by screw or locsened to control time of drips. Remember "a little and often" is the best way to rear strong healthy Fry.

Don't keep 'runts1 - weed your Fry out aa soon as you can notice the strong from the weak.

=====

EDITOR'S NOTE.

Thank you Mrs. Sullivan for your article, which beginners and tyros will find very useful. I think , however, that there will be questions asked by beginners to amplify some of your remarks - and I can assure you we will welcome them.

I think , too, that we should point out that it is quite possible and practical to rear young panchax and livebeaxers on dried food if we have to. I make this point because, as you assert in your first paragraph, live food is difficult to obtain- in this area for, at any rate, some members.

Again many thanks for your article, and we will look forward to the next one.

M. W. Barnes-Oake.

=====

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY. 1951

MEMBERS LECTURETTES.

The meeting opened at 8 p.m., 53 members being present.

The President opened with a few words, first introducing Mr. Jack Brooks, our late Treasurer, on his return from Australia (much applause). He then announced that Mr. Escott, our Treasurer was present, having recovered from his accident. The President continued by introducing Mr. Edwards, the Secretary of the Thames Valley Aquarist Society, who was joining our Society.

Mr. Barnes-Oak e then proceeded to present to Mr. C J. Saunders, our late President, the first Honorary Life Membership ever given by our Society. It was, he said, a small measure of our esteem for the help given in the building of the Club to its present dimensions. Mr. Saunders, who seemed very surprised, thanked the Meeting and hoped that it would go on from success to success. There was no doubt as to the feelings of the Meeting, if one judged by the applause!

The President then opened the meeting to Members. For a time -these were, as usual, rather reluctant, but Mr. Willis gallantly stepped into the breach and gave a short talk on the *Aponogeton* plant, saying that he had been given to understand that it was necessary to have a male and female plant before being able to propagate them. He had cultivated his plant and actually grown new plants from seeds.

Mr. Hoare then said a word or two on the subject of Tropicals (breeding), saying that he wished, with all deference, to disagree, with Mrs. Meadows on the subject of new or old water. He is definitely of the opinion that matured water is essential - at least for Widows and Dwarf Gouramis, which he had bred - and reared - successfully. He said if you can get your fishes into really good condition and put them together the night before you intend them to spawn, then watch them next day - in nine cases out of ten they will spawn. In his opinion, many people do actually spawn fishes without knowing they have done so - and so lose the fry.

Mr. G. Gooke then came forward with a talk on.....

breeding Tiger Barbs, saying that he agreed with Mr. Hoare about using old water, but that he had not been able to rear more than small numbers - tail rot being the great enemy of his young Barbs. He wondered whether he had fouled his tank by overfeeding with Infusoria - or if he had given too much or too little light. Here, Mr. Hoare said that he considered that Barbs were very susceptible to fouling of tanks.

Mr. Willis then said that he had reared many Barbs in very foul water. The subject of this so-called Tail rot in Barbs then waxed fast and furious - many members offering suggestions, but the President said it was not possible to give a verdict, but if any member could get information on the subject, please pass it to the Society.

Mr. Carter then said that he wondered if it were possible that the whole thing could be caused by inbreeding, owing to the scarcity of fresh stock in the country, and this suggestion received some support. Mr. Carter then offered to get an analysis of local water from the Waterworks. A member then asked Mr. Edwards of the Thames Valley Aquarist Society if he had any friends who had bred Tiger Barbs, or whether he had heard of this same trouble. He replied that several of their members had bred these fish and he had not heard of any trouble with Tail rot. He was emphatic, however, that they were all very keen on Clean water! Mr. Edwards then went on to say that he had tried twice to spawn Rosy Barbs, each time having the spawning ruined by planarian worms. He would like to know where these came from. Mr. Barnes-Oake suggested that they abound in filth.

After a very welcome and refreshing tea break, the President announced that the next meeting would be an Auction Sale and apologised for not having sent out Entry Forms with the Journal, but said that a form would be sent shortly.

A member then suggested that, for the benefit of newcomers, someone might speak on more lowly subjects. Mr. Edwards then spoke on the subject of lighting, asking if anyone had anything to say on the respective merits of fluorescent and ordinary lighting. Mr. Baker then replied that he had, for a long time, used Strip Lighting (warm white) with much success, having grown good

.....

plants as a result of this. A member asked if these tubes get hot, and was assured that they did not. Mr. Marshall then explained that an ordinary electric light bulb wasted 75% of its power in heat rays, while the fluorescent tube only wasted some 45% in this manner

A member then asked why his Swordtails (females) were not delivering young, though they looked gravid. The President suggested that the temperature should be raised some five degrees.

A short discussion followed as to the relative values of thermostats.

The meeting closed at 10.30p.m.

=====

CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN.

Dear Editor,

I wish to state categorically. That I am not in favour of the way in which you have table shows. You ask for criticism, and here it is!

Many of us have a fish that is considered good of its kind and we have not got a good one of the other sex to go with it. Do you think that we could have at least some of the shows for 'singletons' to suit simpletons like me.

Yours faithfully

Erstwhile Beginner

=====

Now then members - bearing in mind that we are under Federation Standards (i.e. pairs of fish), how feel you on the above subject?

Ed.

**VISIT OF FEDERATION LECTURER. MRS W. MEADOWS,
on January the 17th.**

(Regretfully omitted from our last issue owing to lack of space)

A delightful evening was spent for the fortunate members who heard the First Lady of the Aquatic World at the second meeting in 1951 This lecture has been produced in the first person by your editor to pass to those who were not present a little of the intimate atmosphere of her talk.

"I followed the usual pattern of aquarists. First one fish tank and eventually one or more fish houses. I always keep males and females separate, I feel that if they spawn in a, community tank they get the 'taste' of their eggs and are likely to get the eating habit.

For breeding Danios (the easiest egg layer to commence with) I find that the size of the tank is immaterial, but it should, preferably, be longer than it is wide; for illustration, take an 18 x 10 x 10 tank and thoroughly cleanse it; obtain some shingle of builder's type, boil and clean it. Place it evenly over the bottom and add clean tap water (I do not use matured water myself) to a depth of three to four inches, and let it stand for 24 hours to get the chlorine out.

Now select your fish. If they are in tip top condition they will breed at any time. In this connection I advocate breeding young fishes - about three months old with Danios is quite old enough. To condition them use chopped earthworm (I cut mine with scissors), Daphnia, Gnat Larvae, etc. There is no excuse for lack of live food as white worm is easily bred.

Divide your aquarium with clear glass - use only one male (the usual second male would only look around for eggs to eat anyway). If you wish, you may use a few plants such as young, shoots of twisted Vallisneria. The eggs, being non adhesive, lie amongst the shingle. Males can be sexed by the straight line from mouth to tail and a yellowish tinge at breeding time.....

First the female chases the male - till the male reverses this order. From the time the male starts to drive you should watch and time them for one hour. The male knock s against the female until the eggs are laid. Do not breed again in about five days, but give a longer rest. Eggs hatch at 80°C from two to five days - the difference in hatching time I find puzzling, but it is probably due to the parents. You can easily see the young - like tiny little black splinters on the glass -and they should number about 350 and be roady for the dealer in six weeks.

Breeding White Clouds cause some people trouble, whilst others say, 'No trouble at all'. The usual method is to smack in plenty of plants and leave them to get on with it. This is not, repeat NOT, breeding fish, and its advocates are quite obviously NOT really interested in this hobby.

I use a 36 x 10 x 10 aquarium divided into three sections with clear glass. Use shingle again with a tiny clump of ambulia in each - five inches of water, temperaiure 74°. For two days and nights I keep four males in one section and three females in the other then put all of them in first section. The males 'dance' round the females, showing off (like all males). After three days in the first section I move all into the Number 2 department, and after two days into No. 3 for a similar period. The fish can continue to spawn for as long as twenty days. I find that they do not attempt to eat young when free swimming, but will eat fry which are clinging to the glass. As seen as the fry are all free swimming I take out the glass partitions.

I don't feed live food in my breeding tank, in case of introducing pests, even though I always pick over my Daphnia thoroughly.

Like most fish, Black Line Tetras get spitefull if they are on the point of breeding. In fact, I find that even two females will attempt to spawn each other. For these and flame fish I use a 24 x 15 x 15 tank with compost at the bottom, five or six inches of water from the tap, with two dozen or so Ambulia in a clump in one corner, and the usual glass partition separating the male from the female. The female Black Line has a slight brassy look about the body, and there is a hook on the male's anal fin. When the fish are placed together there is much quivering side by side and darting into the clumps of plants. You can easily see the eggs being laid, a few.....

at a time, every three or four minutes up to two or two and a half hours. They hatch in thirty six hours and thirty six hours later are free swimming.

The Infusoria that I favour is made as follows: I boil some fresh spinach, using no salt, for ten minutes. I strain it, put it in an earthenware crock and drop in a small potato cut up and add four to gallons of tap water I keep this mixture underneath my tanks, hidden by a nice clean curtain. This is made when the tank is cleaned ready for spawning. I filter this through two thicknesses of butter muslin into a two pound jam jar, and stand on top of the tank, then drip feed when free-swimming

The tea break now intervened, and was followed by a lively barrage of questions, ably answered by Mrs. Meadows, and after a very hearty vote of thanks the meeting was closed.

=====

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

The Table Show on the 6th June will be also be treated as a Judging Competition - and I sincerely hope that many entrants will pop up and show their talents.

We are going to introduce an Infusoria Competition, (or Table Show; if you like). The date will be announced later. Please bring along your best culture or cultures and show us all how it is done.

M. W. Barnes-Oake.

=====

COPY.

Again that lone voice crying in the wilderness -please may we have some copy. Our reserves are exhausted, our wells of inspiration dried up - won't some Good Samaritan help out? (We know our metaphors are mixed, but we hope the above will convey to you the fact that we really are desperate for **COPY**.)

To:-

P. Blomfield
90, Beach Avenue
Leigh

R. J. FALKNER

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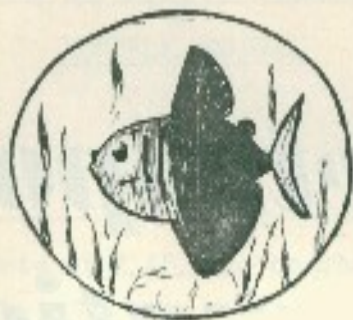
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MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. **3**

No.

9,10,11.

April

19 **51**

May

June

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT

AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

All Enquiries:

The Editor : P. BLOMFIELD, 90 BEACH AVENUE
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SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARISTS' SOCIETY.

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol.3. Nos.9.10.11

April May June. 1951.

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m. on the First and Third WEDNESDAY in each month, at:-

The Liberal Hall,
Clarence Road, Southend-on-Ssa,

EDITORIAL.

Dear Club Members,

I have been asked to take over the Editorship of our Journal, and I should like to use this, my first Editorial, to let you know that I am most happy to accept this assignment.

As you know, production of the Journal has lagged behind rather badly due to a number of unfortunate but unavoidable circumstances, and in order that we may get up to date and be in a position once again to present an up-to-the-minute magazine, it has been decided to make this copy embrace the three months of April, May and June, Thence forward, there will be a regular monthly issue, which will be made during the actual current month,

My first venture into the realms of public journalism was, I recall, at the tender age of 12, -two sets of initials and a heart, carved from the bark of a Hawthorn somewhere in Kent, but the other initials are somehow lost in the mists of memory.

I only hope that my future efforts, piscatorial instead of amoral, may invoke rather more public acclaim, and, hopeful of your approval and support, I introduce myself.....

Most Sincerely,

P. BLOMFIELD.
Editor.

CLUB NEWS

At a meeting on the 6th June, discussions waxed fast and sometimes bordering on the furious on the subject of the forthcoming Annual Show, First it had to be decided whether, with the Olub finances as they are at present, we could in fact afford to run the show this year.

A quotation from last year's supplier of the tanks showed a staggering increase quite beyond our means, and it was decided, on Mr. Barnes-Oake's and Mr. Halfhead's suggestions, to approach East London Aquarists for the hire of the necessary equipment. Members were also asked to lend their 24 x 12 x 12s, and most favourable support was forthcoming in this respect.

The Question of a programme was thrashed out, and, after a further estimation of the financial pros and cons, a vote was taken on whether or not to go ahead with the show. The "Ayes" had it.

The following members then very gallantly offered their services as Show Committee. Mr., W. .H,Carter. Mr.G.Cooke, Mr.R.DuBoisson, Mr. C. G. Brooks, and Mr, Baker, We thank them most heartily, and it is indeed comforting to know that the vast amount of work and organisation necessary to put; on a Show of this nature is in such able hands.,

The President,, Mr, Barnes-Oake. in conclusion, stressed that it is up to us members to backup the Committee to our utmost, and to help in every possible way to make the Show a success,

P.. Blomfield,

WATER PLANTS

With the Annual Show only another six weeks away and with the setting up of furnished aquaria in min, members might like to know members might like to know that a Committee of Judges of the F. B. A. S. Have classified over 50 species of plants , indicating whether they may be used in either coldwater or tropical tanks or both, and these recommendations will apply for all exhibits judged under F. B. A. S standards.

TROPICAL

Amazon Sword
Anubias species
Aponogeton species
Ambulia
Cabomba
Cryptocoryne species
Floating fern
Hygrophila
Hydrilla species
Heteranthera
Indian Fern
Prospalinaca species
Salvinia species
Sagittaria lorata
Sagittaria microfolia
Sagittaria subulata
Water Hyacinth
Water Lettuce

COLDWATER

Azolla (fairy moss)
Elodea canadensis
Elodea densa
Elodea crispera
Fontinalis antipyretica
Hydrocharis (Frogbit)
Hornwort
Lysimachia species
Potamogeton species
Stratiodes

PLANTS PERMISSABLE FOR BOTH TROPICAL AND COLDWATER TANKS

Acorus (Dwarf Rush)
Australian Clover
Bladderwort
Cardamine
Sagittaria natans

Duck weed
Hairgrass
Ludwigia
Myriophyllum

Nitella species
Quillwort
Spatterdock
Vallisneria species

=====

THE COMMON EARTH WORM

by J. Lestrangle (T.V.A.S.)

This creature much despised, feared by some folk, is in actual fact one of man's greatest friends and benefactors. In fact if this little chap to be completely exterminated, agriculture would practically cease, but I will return to this aspect of the worm later on in this article.

The common earthworm is known to all of us by sight, although Aquarists are inclined to give him no quarter. He is dug up, either fed in one piece to the larger inhabitants of our aquarium, or else cut up with scissors or razor blade or even shredded to minute particles with a seven and six penny commercial shredder sold for this special purpose. However, let us examine our little friend a little closer.

You will notice on close examination that Mr Worm has a ringed appearance. If you examine him under a small microscope you will see that each ring or segment of his body bears four pairs of short bristles with their bases implanted in the skin and directed outwards. This is his method of getting around. He moves by concerted action of all these four rows of bristles which run lengthways along his body. You can actually feel these bristles if you handle a worm lightly. Now from the mouth to the tail is a straight tube. This is the intestine. Under this runs the main nerve of a central nervous system. There is also a kind of limited brain which lies above the intestine to the front of the body. It also has a system of blood vessels consisting of three main vessels running through the body and connected in front with five pairs of "hearts", or short pulsating organs.

His normal method of feeding is to swallow huge quantities of earth, digest any organic matter, and throw out all indigestible parts as worm casts.....

It has been calculated, that there are 50,000 worms in an acre of land and that these bring to the surface more than twenty-tons of soil annually in the form of casts. This constant tunnelling not only turns the soil over, but allows it to be aerated and drained and exposed to the action of the wind and the rain.

It is true that a worm cut into two parts becomes two worms, the front half growing a new rear and the rear a new front, but it is untrue that the swelling commonly seen near the front end of a worm is the join where two pieces have united. It is true that two parts of a bisected worm can join and heal, but it is doubtful whether it ever happens in nature. The so-called "scar" is in reality a large glandular area which secretes a cocoon around the eggs as they are laid.

So in future when you prepare to feed your little fishes on worms, don't pretend that they are a mere nothing and have no value or feeling. If they must be killed, make it quick and as painless as possible, There is no doubt that worm is probably the very finest of nutritious food for fishes, especially sliced or ground up, but avoid the large, tough ones and the ones from manure heaps. The latter are often found to be poisonous.

=====

ONE HEARS THAT.....

A certain lady, finding it difficult to rear "tropicals", has now switched over to breeding snails.

M.C. M.

=====

WANTED,.....

"Unlimited quantities of Midnight Oil and large supply of double-ended candles",

Our newly formed Show Committee are in the process of a series of meetings to thrash out the details of the forthcoming Annual Show. They sit long into the night, behind closed doors, round tables piled high with letters, quotations, posters, cold cups of tea and overburdened ashtrays,

You will appreciate how seriously they are taking it when you know that, after one of these lengthy sessions, one Committee member, who works for some Foreign Insurance Company in the City, was found dozing at his desk counting 24 x 12s jumping over a two tier stand)

=====

A Plea for Copy.

This is your magazine, and as such is for the expression of your views and your experiences, One has but to look around at any of our meetings to see members deep in discussion with their friends -obviously on their pet subject. Why not burst into print? Lots of other members would like to hear what you have to talk about, however trivial it may seem to you - so please drop me a line and let me have your ideas,

To remind you ~ the address is 90, Beach Avenue, Leigh,

P Blomfield.

=====

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

Amongst Applicants for Membership have been "Tiger " trainers, "Pearl" divers, fanciers of "Cats" and "Zebras" and one who thought he would like to know how to shoe "Bunkins" and "Berti's".

M.C.M,

=====

A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE,.....

By P. Blomfield.,

There can surely be few among us who have not, at some time or another, dreamed of breeding Neons — I mean, of course, really breeding them, not just spawning them and having the fry survive for only a few days. One can but admit that these fishes do have a certain something which rather puts them "out in front" among Characins, and there are obviously a few other certain somethings, as far as breeding is concerned, which we haven't up to now managed to acquire, which cause puzzlement and frustration to we mere amateurs.

One hears many theories advanced as to why there should be this difficulty, among them one which should be taken with a great deal of reserve - that Continental breeders may be "dosing" the water in which the fry are raised, thereby causing the males subsequently to be either sterile or only able to ensure weak offspring. And this brings me to the point of this story.

At the time of the last Annual Show a certain member who was, and in fact still is, very keen on breeding Characins of various types, and who at the time gave some credence to the "theory" was most anxious to get some English bred Neons. Imagine his joy when a lady member, very prominent among the Barb breeding fraternity - or should I say sorority? — mentioned to him that she had found a source of, not only English bred, but local bred Neons.

He came round to my home before the news was even cold, armed with capacious jars, nets, cotton wool, hot water bottle, etc., only to find that I had nothing more to offer than a shoal of.....yes, of course, you've guessed it — White Clouds.

When explanations were forthcoming, was my face red !!

The cause of the whole misunderstanding was my wife's Grandmother, who is incidentally my Aunt, an intriguing problem this for the genealogically minded.

Cont.....

This good lady, whose keenness and interest in our fishes whenever she visited us rather outweighed her actual knowledge, having admired, the Adult Neons in one of the Community tanks, and having seen these youngsters with their blue streak, evidently took them for young Neons, although we had told her, with the patience which one shows with the uninitiated, that they were in fact White Cloud Mountain Minnows.

Subsequently, when she visited the Show, she happened to be admiring some splendid Neons at the same time as the aforementioned "Barb" lady, and she said, airily, and with not a little pride, "My nephew breeds them, you know".

You can no doubt imagine the general embarrassment, the disappointment, the apologies, the explanations and, of course, the leg-pulling which resulted!

However, the sequel was a most happy one, for this incident served to introduce us to two other "piscatorial" couples, with whom we have become firm friends, and with whom we now share a weekly "fishy" evening- an institution which is a source of extreme pleasure and interest to us, and which I would heartily recommend to other members,

MICRO WORMS

Aquarists everywhere know the great value of these tiny worms as food for the fry of tropical fishes after "the infusoria stage", but not everyone seems to have the same success in getting their culture to "go" really well.

It is felt that many members would benefit immeasurably if those who do have the knack would write in and tell us exactly how they do it,

In view of this appeal, I hope to be able to call the July issue of the Journal "The Micro Worm Number".

Editor.

THE FIGHTER (*Betta splendens*)

Habitat - Siam. Southern China and Malay, Peninsula.

by S.A.JONES. .Wimbledon & District A.S.

Having been approached by fellow "Wimbledon" members for tips on breeding, I would like to say that the biggest asset for fish breeding is PATIENCE. For many years now I have bred tropical fishes, and of the live-bearers I can only say that given healthy conditions and a well planted tank with plenty of Bladderwort, Riccia, etc., and well grown healthy parents, they seem just to breed themselves. Your job is to select carefully the right fish and dump the duds.

However, I think the real fascination of breeding lies in the egg-layers, and one of my oldest favourites is the "Fighter" or *Betta splendens*.

I find that a small tank of approximately 15 x 9 x 9 is best and I always get better results with a fully matured tank with preferably some mulm on the bottom, well planted in one corner ONLY with plants of the *Ambulia* type. Temperature, I keep at approximately 80 degrees F. I am not fussy about it rising to 85 degrees or so, but I never let it drop below 80.

I then place a well grown male in the tank the best breeding age for Fighters is between 9 months and 3 years. I then net a female, which should be quite bulged on the sides, and I float her for a while in a 2 lb jam jar in the breeding tank. Invariably the male starts showing off around the far end. She stays in the jar for about half a day, and sometimes he even starts to build a bubble neat, usually in the most awkward part of the tank, either where you cannot get a good view of it, or right in the middle of the plants,

Now, if the female is ready for spawning she will have taken on a much darker colour and you will notice several dark bands appear around her body.

Cont.

She will also be showing what looko like a small white egg, or pimple from her vent, When I notice these two things, and not before, I put her in with the male, At this stage most females beoome very tantalising and the male usually has to knock har about a bit and tear some of her fins before she eventually decides to become "Mrs, Fighter",

If you are fortunate enough to witness the job of spawning, it is a sight worth watching, However, space doeo not permit a full description here. Once she has spawned you can take the female out and, leave the male to do the rest, You can usually tell when all is over, because she will be hiding in a corner, or behind some plants, and the male will be under the nest looking upwards. If she dares to show herself he will soon chase her off.

With a good magnifying glass you can generally see the egga in the nest and they look very tiny and pearly-white, Leave the male with the eggs until they are hatched out and free-swimming, which usually takes, from .two to three days, He must then be removed and you take over where he left off.

Young Fighters should be fed on infusoria until they are large enough to take micro, etc, I notice that I always seem to get a percentage of slow growers and I personally think they are not worth the time and tank room they occupy, so they are usually sent on an excursion down the Wimbledon sewage network,

I have one observation to make. Of late years I find I have a number of Fighters both male and female, born without pectoral fius, but apart from this absence they seem to be quite normal. Perhaps an Aquarist with more scientific knowledge than I possess could please enlighten me of the cause of this.

=====

Editors Note

Have any of our readers suffered in this way, or can anyone offer an explanation?

PUBLICITY- ANNUAL SHOW

by R. A. Du-Boisson

The Committee have asked me to take over publicity for the Annual Show, and I think it a most opportune time to write a few words on this subject through the medium of our journal.

You are no doubt all aware that the right kind of publicity can really do wonders in making an event of this nature a success, but the major factor is not always the amount of money spent on it, but more the type and, quality of the advertising.

Bearing in mind that the aim of advertising is to bring to the notice of as many people as possible certain information or facts, let us consider some of the methods of achieving this object.

The first that comes to mind is the medium of the newspapers, then there is the use of posters, a slide on the cinema screen, and other Commercial methods. But all these ways are expensive, and only possible in a very modest way for a Society such as ours with limited funds,

Then consider the quality of this kind of advertising - it is only appealing to a small percentage of the people who see it, mainly those who already have an interest in the subject and those whom a skillful advertisement has made curious,

Whilst I am making every effort to use some of the methods already mentioned, it must be remembered that the extent of this advertising is controlled by the amount of money available for that purpose. My belief is that we should spend as little as possible on advertising, because the best advertisement for our Show is in the hands of you - the members of this Society,

You can talk to the public direct, and you can say in a couple of minutes more than can be put on 10 posters. And if you yourselves are convinced that the Show is going to be a success, as I assure you it will be, then you will do more good than 10 Posters.

Cont.....

I need only to draw your attention to the way any unusual event, such as a large fire, gets immediate publicity - everyone knows all about it before the daily papers are even in circulation.

The public like to know what is going on in their town, and if they are convinced that they are missing something by not seeing for themselves, then they will go and see it.

I might add here that the key to our hand bills which will be used for the Show be that very phrase - "Come and see for yourself".

Having used up more space than I intended, I do appeal to all you members to advertise your Show by letting **everyone** know. You cannot talk to people about world events or the weather without standing a good chance of being wrong, but you can tell them about the wonderful Show of Exotic Fish you are having, and you will be **RIGHT** !

CYCLOPS- FRIEND OR FOE? -

This small Crustacean is named after a mythical character, - a giant with one eye - Cyclops, who was anything but a friendly type. He held a batch of Greek travellers in his cave, and his only concern was whether or not they would make a succulent supper,

From what one hears, our small namesake seems to have a reputation for similar designs on young fry, and I should like to have the views or experiences of members on their reactions to the presence of Cyclops in the breeding tank.

I have just raised a brood of about 60 Cherry Barbs - they are now 5 weeks old- and there were at least a dozen Cyclops in the tank, from the time the parent fish spawned. I don't appear to have lost any youngsters, and my personal feelings towards Cyclops have softened somewhat, particularly as they are now producing large numbers of very tiny young ones which the little Cherries are scoffing with the utmost relish,

What do you think? Friend or foe?

P.Blomfield,

R. J. FALKNER

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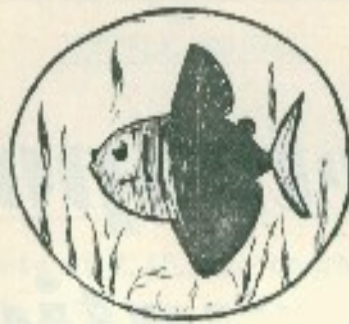
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MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL... **3**...

No.

12

..... July...19 **51**

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY**

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

Communications and Contributions to:-

The Editor: P. BLOMFIELD, 90, BEACH AVENUE LEIGH ESSEX

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and Aquarists' Accessories

SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol.3. . No. 12

JULY 1951

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m. on the First and Third WEDNESDAY in each month, at:~

The Liberal Hall,
Clarence Road, Southend-on-Sea.

EDITORIAL..

Dear Club Members,

As you will no doubt recall from last month's Journal, I had hoped to call this edition "The Micro Worm" number - but, what a reaction I've had!! There have been as many letters from members about their successful cultures as there are micro worms in my little pots when I've got a brood of fry just past the "infusoria stage" - absolutely none!

Well, the answer can't be that none of you do manage to get thriving cultures, so it must be that you are busy either organising the Annual Exhibition or selling hundreds of tickets - good show!

Have you decided yet what specimens you will be entering for the show? Don't forget that all entries must be in Mr. Saunter's possession by July 15th; and remember that apart from the usual cups and "sustifikita" there will be numerous valuable prizes to be won - surely you would like to be presented with a "Suretostick" thermostat, a "Freezo" heater, a genuine Gin-filled thermometer or a jar of "Tubidaph" fish i'cod, And what, about the breeders class - NO, Madam, you may not enter your triplets! Nothing less than six!

Well the best of luck to you all, and let's make it the best Show. Ever..

Most sincerely,

P. BLOMFIELD, (Editor)

CLUB NEWS

There was a gratifyingly large number of members present at the meeting on June 20th, and while Mr. Barnes-Oake and Mr. Saunders were judging the Swordtails, Danios, and Shubunkins which made up the Table Show, the Show Committee under the lively leadership of Mr. W.Carter gave us an "account of their stewardship".

From a financial point of view Mr. Cooke told us that we should all be in a position to retire after the Show. Mr. Carter spoke in glowing terms of the vast amount of work being done by all the Committee, and Mr. DuBoisson, helped by some constructive suggestions from the members present, outlined his plans for advertising - again stressing that the very best advertisement can and should come from the members in telling everyone they know about the Show.

Mr. G. Field and Mr. F. Pryor then nobly volunteered to organise the Class for Non-Members furnished aquaria, and Mr. Willis took on the task of reconditioning our trans- High Street banner. Mr. Ccoke's appeal for a decision on the venue of another outing seemed to fall on somewhat stony ground, and this same gentleman retired amid a cross-fire of references to reptiles and Insurance.

A brand new member, Mr. Kelly, then volunteered the use of his six vans as an advertising medium — just the kind of spirit we need, this! Thank you Mr, Kelly.

Members next took part in a judging competition, before the results of the Table Show were announced, and this resulted in another winn for Mr. Willis, with Mrs.Knopp and Mr. Hoare in second and third places.

The honours in the Table Show went as follows:-

Swordtails

1st - Mr. Willis.
2nd - Mrs. Gibbs.
3rd - Mr. Hoare.

Danios

1st - Mr. Scragg.
2nd ~ Mr, Willis.
3rd - Mr. Mash.

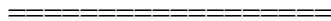
Cont.....

Shubunkins

- 1st Mr Hoare
- 2nd Mr Greaves
- 3rd Mr Hoare

The evening closed with the raffling of a pair of Flames - the proceeds (£2- 4 - 0) being for Journal funds, The lucky winner was Mr, F. Pryor and thanks are due; to all members for their very generous support.

Our grateful thanks are due also- to Mr. Fountain who did his usual noble job in erecting the staging for the Table Show, and to Mrs, Carter and Mrs. Prime who dispensed much needed tea and cake during the interval.



A lively which took place on the 4th July, started with a quiz, and after a slow start, in which members were somewhat reluctant to put their prowess to the test, Mr Smith`s team beat Mr Hoare`s team by 6½ points to 5. One Question — which tropical species shows more enhanced colour in the female than the male? - caused such general controversy, and some ladies were observed surreptitiously to reach for their mirrors and compacts.

After some discussion on whether Guppies should be shown singly or in pairs, it was decided to get a ruling: the F. B. A..S. and, even if this body rules for singleton, Mr. Halfhead generously withdrew his resolution until next year`s show so that no confusion should disrupt the smooth arrangements for our August Exhibition.

Mr. Hoare "brought the house down" with an account of rearing Zebras and Niger Barbs, which seemed to rely on two weeks starvation; vigorous siphoning and a cascade of Cold tap water.,

We live in modern times indeed!

Cont,.....

Mr. Willis rather shook the assembly by disclosing that he has, for the last twelve months, had a bath in his garden !

Our thanks to Mrs.Cooke and Mrs, Gibbs for the "cakes and ale", and we feel that a most pleasantly informal evening was enjoyed by all.

=====

Members letter .

"When asked about a night Watchman for our Annual Show, Mr. J, Brooks replied that there would be one in attendance - a non aquarist. But what good is that, may I ask?

Surely some of our members will volunteer to stay at the Hall for a night. I would for one, and I bet there are many more who would do one night's watch duty to protect his or her own precious fish.

Also, about Shows, I'm sure many of us have e.g. a superb male Guppy which could swim away with 1st prize but for an inferior female letting him down. My friends, it has happened to me, so I know.

Come on Committee, be sporty and let us have a few table shows for single fish instead of the married pairs. I believe you'll get many more entries too,

Que habla ahora, mi amigos?"

Mrs Knopp

=====

Editor' s note:

My humble translation of the last paragraph is:~

"What say you now, my friends?"

THE MACHINE AGE ~ GOD BLESS IT!

You have probably noticed at the bottom of the cover of this Journal a small slip of paper indicating that the Editorship is in new hands. An insignificant slip of paper this, but thereby hangs a tale - a tale of frustration and exasperation ~ of a heroic battle against the malevolence of a machine.

When our President, Mr, Barnes-Oake, suggested that my wife and I should spend an hour at his house so that we could run-off a supply of these slips on his small hand printing machine, nothing could have sounded simpler. But little did we realise what we were letting ourselves in for.

The first foreboding that everything was not going to be completely straightforward came with the realisation that the individual letters have to be placed in the "block" upside down and that each letter is round the wrong way as it were -rather like looking at it through a looking glass. Have you ever tried printing a simple sentence with a pencil when you can only see the paper and the point of your pencil through, a mirror? Try it, and you'll, have some idea of what I mean.

While this was going on, the actual printing machine, to which we had not yet been formally introduced, was eyeing us somewhat mistrustfully from the end of the table, and I made the fatal mistake of saying, "Well that looks simple enough to operate." At once its whole attitude changed from mere mistrust to positive malevolence, and, after we had completed the setting-up of the block, we had our first taste of its evil purpose. I had removed the two inking rollers, had just finished cleaning off the old ink from one of them with spirit and was just taking up the other, when the first rolled off the table and deposited a neat film of spirit, delicately tinged with pale blue ink, on the front of my trousers.

After this mishap, everything went well until we had actually fixed the "block" in the machine, -

Cont.....

and I swear those screws were as firm as human hands could make them - then, after the type had become nicely inked, out fell the "block" from machine to table and thence into my lap - and of course it had to be ink side down ! I ask you, who wants his name and address tattooed on his knees?

By now we were on our mettle, and that block went back so firmly that nothing short of an earthquake could have shifted it.

Then at last came the moment to start printing. How eagerly and how proudly we surveyed our first effort; but alas, what pride can last when one's name appears as

— — — — —

Now, of course, the "block" had to come out again; but would that machine give it up? Not likely. It is a well known fact that earthquakes are particularly rare in this part of the world, and we did not feel inclined to wait for one, but it was little short of a man-made earthquake - with vocal accompaniment - which finally persuaded this infernal instrument to part with its "block".

Well, as you can see, we did at last manage to subdue our tormentor sufficiently to complete our task, but when we studied the finished slips some two hours later at home we found that the machine had had the last laugh - the G in Leigh had changed into a C

We were both certain at the time that everything was perfect, and, although we are by no means superstitious, we can only think that the confounded thing is possessed of an evil influence.

So, dear reader, should you ever wish to do a small job of printing, and should our President graciously offer you the use of his printing machine, I would advise you to refuse gracefully and reach for your pen!

P. Blomfield...

=====

ANNUAL SHOW BREEDER'S CLASS

by; M.W. Barnes-Oake

For some time I have regretted the fact that no Cup is available for a Breeder's Class, Accordingly, I have provided such a Cup, and hope competition will be strong, as in my opinion, it is the main reason from the Hobby standpoint for the existence of the Society.

All members of the Southend, Leigh and District Aquarists are eligible for the Trophy, which will be competed for annually, three successive wins entitling the exhibitor to retain the Cup.

The date of fish breeding is to be from one Annual Show to the next.

Fish must have been bred by the member, and six fish of either or both sexes will comprise an entry.

The date of birth is to be stated on the exhibit and taken into consideration by the Judges under the points heading of 'Size'.

Note: Special difficulty of breeding ~ Serpae would of course gain probably ten points out of fifteen here, whilst Platies etc. would gain a possible two or three points only, but the main thing is to produce fish of quality to catch the judges eye.

Difficulty of Breeding	Shape	Colour	Finnage	Uniformity of Growth
15	10	13	10	10
	Size	Condition	Department	
	10	30	10	

=====

MEMBERS LETTER

108, Silverdale Avenue,
Westcliff-On-Sea.
Essex,
Phone. Southend 2087.

Dear Fellow Members,

I have been asked to run a section of the Annual Show with the general title of:- The Biological Aspects of Fish Keeping.

This, I have readily agreed to do. I have got a few ideas of my own about this, but would welcome a few more.

I have not been able to attend any of the Club Meetings lately, and, when the idea was discussed, I was not able to be present to hear for myself your ideas.

I should be pleased if you would contact me, and let me have your suggestions. I cannot promise that all your suggestions will be used, but they will all be considered, and those which I am able to use, I most certainly shall.

I can be contacted any evening between 6 and 8, except Friday and Sunday.

So, hoping to hear from you, I sign myself,

Yours sincerely,

Roy . V . Edwards.

=====

ONE HEARS THAT

At the last Annual Show of "SLADAS", a tripper presented himself at the box-office and said, "I'll have one of them there `Salads`, mister".

A Japanese Fantail committed "hara-kiri" on an Amazon Sword on V.J. Day.

=====

SOLILOQUY

by; M.C. MASH.

! . I

When the skies are heavy-laden and the garden damp with rain;
When your limbs are feeling heavy and your bones are racked with pain;
Take a peek at your aquaria and forget about the "Jane",
Who has left you for another - .and you thought you'd go insane.

If you're sick and feeling lonely in a ward that's cold and neat;
If the nurse is unresponsive when you say "turn on the heat";
Give a thought for your aquatics and your home just down the street,
And you'll soon be well and hearty and again upon your feet.

In a world that's like the jungle underwater -planted thick,
With the ferns and other herbage that grow green and very quick(?) ,
Fishes glide with fin-propulsion and at rock or algae pick;
It is like a panorama and it gives one quite a kick.

My advice to those who suffer, or of melancholic bent,
Is to buy a simple fish tank - you will find it heaven-sent.
Ask your dentist, doctor, barber, they'll agree it's cash well spent;
Toothache, headache, heart-ache, backache, all will vanish, **WITH THE RENT!**

=====

GUESS WHO?

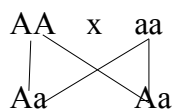
A member who does a little amateur breeding consorted one male with two females ~ then took out a third party risk policy!

=====

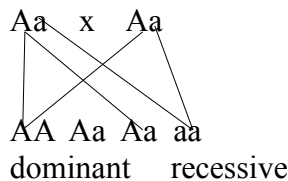
DOES MENDEL'S LAW WORK?

Members will recall in past journals a series articles by the Club's tame zoologist - to quote the immortal words of our former President -dealing with genetics and other mysteries of life that rule our fishes from birth to death.

To recap, Mendel's law says that one character of a pair is dominant. Thus, where the character **AA** is dominant and is mated with a character **aa** which is recessive, all the offspring of the first filial generation will show the dominant character.



Mendel's law continues that where two offspring from the first filial generation are mated the second filial generation will show a preponderance of offspring showing the dominant character in the ratio of 3 : 1.



With certain species of our fishes we are able to experiment with Mendel's law which he formulated as a result of his experiments with plants. In this connection we are lucky because in the Animal Kingdom it is the exception rather than the rule for hybrids to be fertile.

We can mate a Sword tail with a Mo Hie and produce the familiar Berlin Bwordtail. However I have yet to hear of anyone who as the result of mating a pair of Berlins has obtained any Mollies from such a mating,

Cont.....

Has any member any ideas which might account for this absence of the recessive character from showing itself in their tanks?. If so the Editor would in all probability be glad of replies to provide him with copy for future journals.

=====

PS5T! WANNA BUY A TICKET.,.....?

by; P.Blomfield.

It is now, as you all know, only weeks to the Annual Show, and most of have been sent books of shilling a time (6d for juniors)to the unsuspecting public. Well, this is to you, one and all, to do just that and keep on doing it! doing itj

It is indeed surprising just how many people one can induce, by cajolery, threats or pure psychology to put hand to pocket. I think by far the best approach I can suggest up to the present might go something like this:-:

"Been to the South Bank Exhibition yet,old man?" - "Yes, I took the wife and kid(s) on Thursday".

"Enjoy it?" - "Yes, on the whole, but it's a pity having such a journey to get there".

"Still, any show is worth while if you see something a bit out of the ordinary, don't y' think?" - "Yes, I suppose it is really".

"Well, you know, there's an exhibition of Tropical fish at Clarence Hall over the Bank Holiday; no travelling to do; only a bob to go in; no paying the earth for a Nationalised cup of tea; and I can guarantee you'll see some things you never thought existed".

I think you'll agree that in doubtful cases an indirect approach is better than a straight for ward-

Cont.....

£"iow?:f 1

"Want to buy a ticket for the Fish Show" . Anyway give it a try; it's always rather fun selling something to somebody, especially if they may not particularly want it.

So far we have had good reactions from our tradesfolk; the butcher was most interested; the greengrocer wasn't keen but bought a ticket all the same; the grocer had one; the only real blank we have drawn up to now has been the chap from whom we buy "pieces for the cat" - he just looked down his nose and said, "What, me, interested in fish?"

I have even managed to dispose of a few at the office to people who have no chance of having any connection with Southend over the Bank Holiday other than a pint of cockles from their local purveyor of Billingsgate's best ~ it's the hope of winning a furnished tank or more likely the cash equivalent that attracts 'em.

Any method of Salesmanship is permissible short of using the proverbial blunt instrument get cracking, and sell those tickets!

=====

It is reported.....

,..... that lights were blazing long into the night at an address in Central Avenue on Wednesday the 20th June on the occasion of a meeting of both the General and the Show Committees, and the buzz of discussion and controversy carried through the half open windows and well round the surrounding neighbourhood.

While this was going on, a lady in the house immediately opposite was having a baby, and one member of the Show Committee heard a rumour subsequently that the bonny infant came into the world equipped with gills and clutching an Insurance policy in each hand.

Substantiation of this occurrence has not yet come to hand,

W.H.C.

R. J. FALKNER

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