

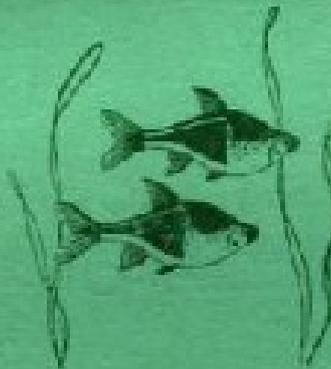
# THE SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

Vol. 6.....

No. 7.....

..... July, 1953

## MONTHLY



## JOURNAL

Editor: G. Willis, 72, Hillside Crescent, Leigh-on-Sea.

Hon. Secretary: H. A. Giles, 72, Sandringham Road, Southend-on-Sea.

AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ONLY

# SOUTHEND AQUARIST HISTORY

## SLADAS JOURNAL For 1953

<http://www.southendaquarist.co.uk/>

Southend, Leigh and District Aquarist Society was formed as far back as 1935, prior to World War II it was known as Southend Aquarist Society. We have only been able to trace the Society back that far. But it is possible it existed before that date but we have so far been unable to find any documentary evidence.

At the outbreak of World War II the Society had to be disbanded as the Southend area became a militarised area as it lies on the Thames estuary offered a direct route to London for any invading enemy. With the whole area under military control it became impracticable to hold our meetings as movement was severely restricted especially after dark. In addition many of our members were conscripted into the armed forces. Imagine trying to explain to a sentry that the box that you were carrying so carefully under your coat was just a jar of tropical fishes!

After the hostilities four members of the old committee met and reformed the Society and decided to call it Southend, Leigh and District Aquarist Society. The first Monthly Journal was published in 1948 under the editorship of Edgar C. Day. In 1948 Edgar was also the club secretary. The Journal was then published for a number of years, It was resurrected in the early 1960's by Howard Preston.

Howard, incidentally was one of the first English aquarists to travel to Mexico to collect livebearing fishes in the 1960's. He first flew to New York and thence by Greyhound bus all the way to Mexico City where he and Chris Lyons hired a car to explore for fish. The Journal was then published in either a bi-monthly or quarterly form until the 1980's.

This issue, Volume 6 of 1953, is our first attempt to save copies of the Journal for posterity in both printed and digital form on CD. The issue has been copied in OCR form but because of the nature of duplication and the type of paper it was written on the result has had to be substantially re-written but no alteration has been made to the format so that some pages are not filled completely, but the original page number have been retained throughout. No attempt has been made to update the nomenclature so many fish names may be strange to a modern audience. We have also resisted the temptation to change any information that doesn't agree with present day thinking.

It is hoped that in the future more issues will be made available but not all issues are still in existence although we do understand that Volume one has been scanned by the British Library.

Although today the Society no longer publishes a Journal the Society is one of only two clubs remaining in Essex if one includes Ilford club in what is now Greater London. The Society is still able to hold an annual show every May with entrants from as far as Port Talbot in Wales & Corby in Northamptonshire. SLADAS members visit other clubs shows to return with prizes in many instances.

**Please note** that original page numbers 93, 94, 95, & 96 owing to original error in numbering do not exist!

Although each issue contained advertisements we have only included one example of each rather than bore you with twelve repeats

**Anyone with any information about the history of Southend, Leigh & District Aquarist Society - particularly in the 1940's and 1950's and also pre-war in the 1930's when the club was known as Southend Aquarist Society is invited to contact Peter Capon at [aqua.world@amserve.com](mailto:aqua.world@amserve.com)**

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**SOUTHEND LEIGH & DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.  
MONTHLY JOURNAL.**

Volume 6 No. 1 January 1953

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

THE LIBERAL HALL  
Clarence Road,  
Southend-on-Sea

**EDITORIAL**

Dear Fellow Members,

The time has come to write of many things; Xmas is now a thing of the past and already as many New Year's resolutions have been broken as were made.

As you are aware, you have a new committee and while I have no doubt that they will receive in due course their bouquets ( spelt bricks) I would like to thank our two Assistant Editresses, secretaries or stenographers, whichever they prefer to be called, who have so kindly offered to do the typing involved in setting up the Journal. You may not realise: how lucky you are, but I know that they have saved me many hours of laborious one fingered exercise and I rather suspect you from going bald or up the; pole trying to puzzle out what has been printed. In other words I'm no typist!

Having made my bow, may I wish Members, old and new, a very successful, though belated. New Year - mainly as aquarists though I fancy a little of that "dollar lolly" would be more appreciated. I seem to recollect that, nearly every year in the Presidents address, reference has been made to those who are with us on paper but seldom appear in the flesh. May I remind such Members, and express the hope that their numbers diminish, that it is your Club, and your Committee are elected - I almost wrote press-ganged -to serve you. It may be that you do not necessarily agree with our policy, but if you do not come and voice your opinion, how do you expect us to be aware of these differences? From our new pro gramme I do however expect to see the vast majority of faces at least four times this year !

Yours very sincerely,

G. Willis (Editor)

### CLUB NEWS.

Some thirty of the stalwarts braved, the elements having forsaken, on a raw winter's night, the home;: comfort of an armchair by the fire, carpet slippers and feet up (pat him on the boko) to attend the first meeting of 1953. The atmosphere in the hall was as chilly within as without but when we had been relieved of some of our filthy lucre by cur Hon. Treasurer (yes, annual subs. are now due!) things warmed up, particularly when the tea. and cakes were promoted from their customary midway to almost the opening ceremony. Mesdames Gibbs and Cooke must have heard cur knees knocking and cur teeth chattering!

The meeting then get under way by our President welcoming a new member, Mr. Knight, who, he explained was in the rather unusual position of being a member before he was a fully fledged aquarist, in fact before he was a fishkeeper. The paraphernalia of the aquarist, was in his case still a credit in the bank.! The meeting then decided by discussing algal growth and introducing into later points various fish diseases, that the life of an aquarist is no sinecure and from the advice showered upon him, Mr. Knight must have reflected whether to proceed. further in the matte, while discussion of the minimum needs must have assured him that the first requirement to being an aquarist was unlimited funds. Let me however assure him that such is not the case, we're only or'nary folk if you ignore our "fishysyncracies"

The first item discussed was, rather naturally, the wherewithal in which to place the fishes. As it was hoped that all new fishkeepers (and I might add some of the not so new) will in time graduate to aquarist s (there is a subtle difference ) it was generally agreed that three tanks were the minimum; two not less than 24" x 12" x 12", one as a community tank and the other for "dabbling", the third, and most important, though of smaller size. (15" x 9" x 6" was ample) for use as an isolation tank in which any additions could be quarantined, thereby ensuring a clean bill of health in the community tank. These would suffice, finances being the limiting factor, as working basis on which to expand, until the. ultimate fate of living rough, his horne having been given over to the fishes, obtained! .

Standardisation of all equipment was considered a good thing, one thermostat could then cope with all the tanks, all heaters being of the same wattage, instead of an heterogeneous assembly of tanks, with different wattage heaters necessitating a large stock of spares to be carried against emergencies.

Thermostats next came under review and it was agreed that; the external fitting had many advantages over the submersible or partly ditto with external adjustment types. It was ,however noted that the variation of plus or minus one degree Fahrenheit of which some makers seemed very proud tended, rather, to coddle our fishes, a range of 8 to 10 degrees being considered, more realistic.

Heaters next came under discussion ~ there were few comments - a heater being a heater after all is said. It was however agreed that they should be so arranged that they don't come into contact with the glass of the aquarium, as some of us have found to our cost! Condensation was regarded as an enemy by all, but despite its proximity to live wires -- and we have some !- was not considered dangerous. Then that so controversial question of lighting was raised. Suggestions ranged from all over covers to narrow reflectors from natural daylight to artificial light, with the corollary of ultra violet rays. It was argued loud and strong; that thin glass covers ( 24 oz. ) with a long reflector raised sufficiently to allow air to circulate between the bulbs and the glass was one of the best ways of providing illumination and defeating condensation, also it was less likely to provide additional sharp edged compost in the tank below! Our President was not convinced, advocating the use of wire reinforced glass for the cover. ( I rather suspect that he uses it because, it stands up to rougher treatment, accidental or deliberate!).

Mr. Knight and the rest of us departed at approximately 10 pm. to cogitate on matters fishy for another fortnight.

### UNHOLY COMMUNITY

While suckers watched their Tets by night,  
A'spawning down below,  
An Angel of the hoard came down,  
The dirty so-and-so.  
"Fear not," said he, "dear Neon Tats,  
I'll fan back to and fro",  
But cunningly he double-turned And siphoned up the roe.

M . C. M.

### LIBRARY REPORT. .1953

It is to be regretted that this Report was not ready for the January number of the Journal, but look at the weather we were having ! - I ask you!

However, apart from three regrettable incidents, I have nothing but good to report on the year's working. A large number of Members read a large number of books and paid a large amount to do so- or did they? The three regrettable incidents were that three Members failed to remember where they had enriched themselves with a volume - it is to be hoped that their lapse of memory is only temporary!

The new volume of Harvey & Hems has been in great demand and browsers who require this volume can do so in time by joining the end of the queue. Meanwhile, current volumes of 'Water Life' and 'Aquarist' are in the binder's hands, -as is our SLADAS Journal for 1952.

New Members might like to know that books are loaned at 4 d per fortnight for the larger volumes and 2d for the smaller books.

The books now available, if not on loan are :-

Water Life - First Series ( Vols I-VII)  
 Water Life - New Series (Vols. 4-7)  
 .. Aquarist (Vols. XV-XV11) ..  
 S.L.A.D.A.S. Journal (Vols. 1-V)  
 Innes' Coldwater Fishes.  
 Innes' Exotic Fishes (3 vols.)  
 Hervey & Hems Tropical Fishes.  
 Love and Life in the Aquaria. ..  
 1001 Questions. Tropical Aquaria.  
 Fishponds and Home Aquaria..  
 Keep an Aquarium.  
 Tropical Fish-Keeping.  
 Freshwater Fishes of Britain's Rivers and Lakes.  
 Flowers of Marsh and Stream.  
 British Marine Life.  
 The Bog Garden.

Take a book to bed with you. You will learn a lot, spend little, and sleep less. Good reading,  
 The Librarian.

(Re the first sentence - that's what he thought! In this connection please read the article on page 8. R.S.V.P)

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## HEARING IN FISH

By :- Dr. S. GOODING ( Thames Valley)

Perhaps it can't be said so much for the keepers of tropical fish, but of other fishermen it can be said that they have a vivid and romantic imagination. This no doubt, serves to mitigate the hardships and monotony of their lives, and is, perhaps, reflected in the fishing stories with which literature is richly supplied. from the earliest times. Aristotle was, for instance, of the opinion that fish could hear, since they are dispersed by the splashing of the oars of a boat, but he ignored the possibility that splashes might affect other sense organs than a possible sense of hearing.

At Krems, in Austria, a monastery possessed a pond stocked with goldfish which assembled for food when a monk stood on the bank and rang a bell. A physiologist named Kreidel, feeling doubtful about this story, visited the monastery and altered the dinner ceremony to the extent of removing the tongue from the bell, yet the fishes crowded round as eagerly as before. He then replaced the tongue and erected a screen at the pond's edge, whereupon the goldfish took no notice whatever. It would have been remarkable if the goldfish had really heard, for aerial sound waves are almost completely reflected on striking a liquid surface. In such experiments it is necessary to produce the sound in the water. Thus a man while swimming under water cannot hear a pistol shot discharged in the air immediately above him, though he can readily detect the sound of a submerged bell.

Most fish, however, can hear; and whereas salt water fish only react to deep notes and jars and knocks on their tanks and aquariums, a considerable frequency range of hearing is possessed by many freshwater fish.

Using a source of sound as a food signal, a biologist named Stetter found that the minnow, goldfish, barbel, miller's thumb and catfish can hear high notes, the minnow responds up to a frequency of 4,000 vibrations a second, the catfish to the extraordinary high frequency of 15,000 vibrations per sec. This last sound is supersonic and is reminiscent of the range of sound heard by the bats with their wonderful system of sound radar in avoiding objects in their line of flight.

Fish have a lateral line which no doubt gives them the ability to recognise vibrations in the water, and they also have other organs of hearing which enable them to hear sounds of quite high frequencies.

## ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF M.C.M

By I. G. Swill

A recent addition to our Club met our Honorary Adviser and, jubilantly announced, that his *Pterophyllum eimekei* were a pair and, to prove it had, spawned! Our H. A. was asked, the best way of rearing them and, gave the normal advice, remove the leaf with the eggs on, attach a small piece of lead, thereto, place in a clean shallow dish, float it in the aquarium, provide gentle aeration, the fry, when free swimming to be provided with ample quantities of infusoria, etc. This advice was followed and for some time all went well. Our H. A. duly forgot the matter.

Some two months later in answer to a knock at his door, there was the not so jubilant, not so recent addition, who asked our H. A. if he could come round and look at the young fish, as mysterious things were happening. Our H. A. accompanied him home and having seen could not believe what he saw! There, before his eyes were some hundred young fish without a ventral fin between them (not tails George!). Even more amazing was the fact that the sticky thread of the "wrigglers" was still in evidence but the disc at the free end had degenerated into a ring which floated above their heads. The dorsal fins were upright and were paired! On removing the cover glass to verify this last fact, the fishes attempted to leave their normal environment and fly. Our H. A. can only suggest that the parents spawned too near the surface and that the young fish were trying to live up to their common name of Angels!

## IMPORTANT FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Members are requested to ring, asterisk or otherwise specifically annotate the following dates in diaries and calendars :-

SUNDAY 26th April 1953

21st June 1953

6th September 1953

Will Members please reserve the dates for SLADAS outings

### **AUCTION SALE**

Our next meeting is one that we all have been eagerly awaiting. In view the comparatively short time between the last meeting in January and the great "Event" may I ask all who will be entering lots to complete the enclosed form and return it to our Hon. Sec. not later than

JANUARY 26th so that the necessary catalogue can be prepared.

May I remind Members of the appeal issued by our President in the December issue of the Journal. While it is impossible to ensure that only worthy lots are included in the catalogue, it is the intention of your Committed to ensure that only lots that all Members would be happy to obtain are put up for auction.

May I therefore quote from that article the following :- "in my humble opinion a reasonable approach to Auction Sales would be to enter only such items as one would be pleased to bid for oneself, and NOT, repeat, NOT to use them as a clearing house for any items of poor quality which one merely wishes to be rid of !

### **I WONDER - OR DO I?**

Does a croaking gourami suffer from a frog in the throat?

Does a knife fish cut up his own food?

Does an electric eel telling dirty story to shock his listeners?

Does the Archer fish shoot a good line?

Does a lyretail serenade his lady?

Do fighters attend the Peace Conference

Does the dogfish pine for a tree?

Does the Australian rainbow only appear in company with sun fish ?

Does a Merry Widow get on well with an angel?

### LIVING FOSSILS AN APEAL

Once again we "fishy" folk have amazed the scientist and produced, for their inspection a living example a primitive fish of which, up to a short while ago, they had only fossils upon which to base their knowledge. I refer, of course, to the Coelacanth, a specimen of which has been caught recently in the Comoro Islands, off Madagascar. Except for a very decomposed specimen of this family seen in 1938 it had "been thought to have been extinct for some 60,000,000 years.

At this time in evolution Man was unknown, he have roamed the earth at this time his education would /not have been so advanced as it is today. Early man had no alphabet, such as we know it, his only method of making available to posterity his knowledge, was in form of primitive drawings in natural pigments on the walls of the caves he inhabited.

Much later in history Man evolved a better method of handing down his knowledge. Even this advancement did not approach our alphabet, hieroglyphics being merely pictorial! Association of ideas having no counterpart in the spoken word. In fact there are several lost tongues of which the hieroglyphics still remain unintelligible to archaeologists.

Only with discovery of the Rossetti Stone were we able to solve the riddle of the Ancient Egyptians.

In more recent times Man learned to commit spoken word to paper by the use of an alphabet, and one of the first writing media was the fluid obtained from the body of a primitive creature which has changed little in millions of years. I refer, of course, the Octopus, which produces sepia.

By this time you may be wondering what all to do with the title of this article. If Modern man does not commit some of his ideas to paper and forward them to me, I shall be an Honorary Editor Unemployed as the total extent of the copy handed over to me by our ex-Editor consisted of his "reserve" written and kindly forwarded to him by Members of other Aquarist Societies So please I implore you, keep the good work going and make the postman groan under the weight of your contributions.

G. Willis (Editor)

### THE JOURNAL COMPETITION.

The following comments have been received from Mr. W. J.. Page, the Editor of "Water Life", to whom we are indebted for kindly acting as judge in deciding the most meritorious article published during 1953.

"When again invited to pick out the contributions in your society's magazine which, to my way of thinking, were most worthy of recognition, it proved not too difficult a task. I had read each issue as it came along and found it relatively easy when the time came to choose three of its articles. Those selected had stuck in my mind and although I read again at one go all those features eligible for prizes, my initial choice was not altered.

Mr. Willis' article took first place for its completeness and lucidity, plus the fact that it was based on first hand experience. It indicated by its style that the author wanted to help others to emulate his achievements and there was no feeling that he had held back any information. In fact, he tended to err, if at all, on the side of saying that what he accomplished was too easy!

I next chose the material by Mr. Blomfield, because it revealed no reluctance to admit that he was trying to break new ground, and I felt that the way he described his experiment of keeping the *Nannochromis* was written naturally and in a straightforward manner that might well encourage fellow members to try their hand at something new. The article was also useful in that it included not only the helpful description of the fish and the stages of development shown by the adults when they came into breeding condition, but also let the readers know what could be expected to happen if they attempted to get the same species to spawn.

The third award was not influenced by the editorial footnote. I Cotgrove's article was both entertaining and instructive, apart from giving an implied admission that aquarist's wives often help their husbands to maintain their interest in the hobby. I can only express the hope that the way Mr. Cotgrove achieved his ambition to call himself a dyed-in-the-wool breeder of tropicals will encourage other members to try - and not to be discouraged if, at first, things do not seem to be working to plan.

### NEW DEPARTURES

I have often wondered how many of us buy our daily paper merely to see if we can solve the crossword or some other puzzle inserted to try our brains. A cross-word appears in each issue of The Aquarist, and while I do not aspire to compose one every month, I thought it might be an interesting experiment to include in each issue of our Journal something to cause a frown to appear on the brows of our readers.

This first problem must be for amusement only but it is possible that if it arouses sufficient interest, the Committee could be prevailed upon to expend some small portion of Club funds upon a suitable prize, even if its only a new black lead pencil to replace the one worn out in solving the puzzle!

So, for these of you who hate to be beat, here it is :-

Each of the following phrases is an anagram of the specific and generic name of a fish. In this case they are all tropicals, but if the idea catches on I may be forced to resort to coldwater even salt water fishes. Can you solve the anagrams and provide the common name of the fish?

1. 1 DEATH AROSE FROM IRAN.
2. CAD SOUP - A SORRY TALE
3. SLATE USER CUBE IS TILT.
4. BURBLES AT AIR? GRATIS!
5. ENEMY PILLS DRUG US SO.
6. I FILE OLIVE MARE'S NAIL.
7. HEBY COUNTS BATH NAILS.
8. PENS END BATTLES.

The solution will be published in our February issue. \_\_\_\_\_ The Editor.

### A STITCH IN TIME

While the Committee are busily engaged in looking into the future, may I remind you to do a little of the same thing? I know that it is rather early to mention the Annual Show, but now is the time to start preparing for it. Remember that a young adult fish is a much better proposition than one which is past sowing his wild oats, while the purchase of four or five of each species now to really grow on saves a lot of frantic rushing around to buy adult fish just before the Show to replace the beauty that "just died".

**BEING LOGICAL.**

Conclusions may be drawn, when one  
Who studies things - methodical,  
Decides to give attention to  
An interest that's zoological.  
The fishy man – so science says -  
Has gone all "piscalogical";  
And he who fancies frogs and snakes  
Becomes herpetological  
Collecting bird's eggs is, we're told  
A sport that is oological:  
But not so sporting to the birds  
Says one ornithological.  
Shells - the ones that can't explode  
Gives interest conchological;  
And beetles, bugs and such-like things  
Are termed entomological.  
Your tank is filled with water -  
Called by quiz-fans mineralogical,  
But if it's dirty down below  
Could be bacteriological.  
If fishes die you're sure to try  
Some action biological  
To save the rest, you turn your zest,  
To some thing physiological.  
You move your eyes up to the skies -  
Becoming astrological;  
But all in vain, your fish again  
Have something morphological.

P.T.O.

You rave and swear in language rare  
And -that's etymological;  
Ignoring shocks, you threw out rocks  
They're palaeontological,  
You've read this and your aches and pains  
Increase - that's histological  
Now quench your tears and cease your jeers,  
I'm what they term illogical.

M. C. M  
MI.

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP THE CLUB**

This Journal is issued to club members only. If however you have friends who have a tank, but who are not members of the club, there is no objection to allowing these; friends to read our Journal. Just one copy " not the whole lot! You can then extol the advantage of membership and either invite or kidnap them into coming as your guest to a meeting. If they do not realise the value of membership to such an organization, which has only their interests at heart, then they are not worthy of the name of fishkeepers, let alone aquarists.

#### **SLADAS MART AND EXCHANGE:.**

For the information of new Members, and as a reminder the not so new who may have forgotten, members "wants" and "for disposal" notices are accepted for insertion in the Journal. A small fee (1/- per insertion) payable to the Hon. Sec. should accompany. your advert.

#### **WANTED**

One 56" x 15" angle iron stand  
Will any Member who has one for disposal, please contact Mr. P. Soffiatti,  
234, Eastern Avenue, Southend.

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY**  
**MONTHLY JOURNAL**  
Vol. 6 No. 2 February 1953

The Society meets at 7.45 pm. On the first and third Tuesday in each month at:-  
THE LIBERAL HALL, Clarence Road, Southend-On-Sea.

**EDITORIAL**

Dear Members,

The new cover of our January issue was a welcome change yes? As a "fishy" magazine it is more in keeping with the aim. of our hobby of producing bigger and. better fishes to have our harlequins swimming in green water, thus providing the where with all to grow, than to have them struggling to exist in water that in the past had colour of being a little "off".

I am glad that I am not a student of psychology, the more one learns and sees of it the more incomprehensible it becomes. Give anything a fancy name present it beautifully wrapped up, extol its virtues loud and clear, make it appear that it is being given away and you have half the" world on your doorstep. Carry on quietly giving value for money and you are almost relegated to obscurity, There's a simile here if I can see it. Oh yes, on one occasion this year as I expected, I have seen the majority of your faces, on the others only those whose quest is knowledge.

One of the great scientists of yesteryear said that matter can neither be created nor destroyed. However that may be, it is true to say that only that which one is prepared to put into the Club can be taken out, While I admit t that Tuesday night is regarded in the entertainment world as an "off" night how about making it a night off and see what, up till row, you have missed? Those who attended the last meeting in January are already sure that ascertain shield in the possession of our President will, from August on, grace their mantelpiece!

So, ye seekers of the Truth, roll up from the words of wisdom that well be poured into hat will re poured into your shell-like ears, who knows, not one of the clubs three major trophies at present in Leigh may remain there if these words are heard, heard heeded and digested.

What shall it profit a member to gain, by chance, all three if he knows not how to retain them.

Yours sincerely

G. .Willis. (Editor)

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### **CLUB NEWS.,**

In his "Talk on the Furnished Aquarium on Tuesday, Jan. 8th, Mr .P. Blomfield began by touching on the general "chemistry" of a set-up tank and spoke of the controversy which was apparent at the moment on the subject of whether oxygenation from plants really played such an important part in providing fishes with their means of life. The general opinion seemed to be that water absorbed some oxygen through its surface, which, in case of a clear and constantly agitated surface, would probably prove sufficient , but in our tanks, where natural conditions do not exist this adsorbtion would prove insufficient over a longish period of time and therefore oxygen given off by the plants would prove a beneficial and necessary addition.

It seemed that a more important function of the plants was adsorb the harmful carbon dioxide given off into the water by the fishes in the course of their normal respiration thus preventing a saturation of the gas, which would result in the asphixiation of the fishes. In this respect it was stressed that over crowding a tank was dangerous – as well as being unsightly from an artistic point of view.

The benefit of plants was further stressed in that their roots extracted from the fishes excreta the various chemical substances which would lead to ultimate pollution of the water, and finally of course they are of extreme decorative value.

This last observation brought the speaker to the subject of the Furnished Aquarium from a competitive point of view, and it was shown how a tank is judged, with actual marks allocated to the various headings under which judgement is given :-

Size 8 points  
Fishes (25)  
Quality 12 points  
Selection 5 points  
Plants (25)  
Selection 10 points  
Quality 15 points  
Design (25)  
Permanency 5 points  
Originality 10 points  
Realism 5 points  
Harmony 5 points  
Technique (25) Planting 8 points  
Rockwork 7 points  
Clarity 5 points

## Compost 5 points

On the subject of fishes it was thought that these would be judged in accordance with show standards, they should therefore be adult as large as possible,

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in perfect condition and well matched as to species and sizes while some judges seemed to favour the use of one species only in one tank, Mr. Blomfield considered it better to use different types to give harmonious colour contrasts and to avoid having all the fishes swimming at one level in the tank. The use of fishes which would obviously not live amicably together or the mixing of different species of live bearers was to be deplored and would lose marks on the score of Selection.

Plants must obviously be in first class condition free from algae and deformed and dead leaves, and 6 or 7 different types was usually considered ideal - more than this was apt to give a "bitty" look, while at least this number of different types was essential to add interest to the design as well as to give variations in colour.

Permanency in Design is taken to mean that the tank should convey the feeling that the arrangement will maintain its appearance for some considerable time and not quickly become overgrown and lose its original lay-out.

Originality must obviously warrant high marks, as there seems a limit to the number of ways in which such a restricted space can be "decorated", and it is most creditable when something really different is produced: in striving for originality, however, care should be taken to avoid anything too striking or garish - the instance was quoted of a tank containing rockwork in the form of a section of a brickwork wall ( President's own comment "looked like » static water tank!").

Realism - a term which seemed to provide some difficulty of interpretation - was taken as meaning an approach to the natural: the speaker said he would give marks where types of fishes and/ or plants from the SAME natural habitat were used.

Harmony was naturally the blending of both the shapes and the colours in the aquarium - the shapes by reason of the clumps of plants with their varying greens, and the colours both of plants and fish; which should produce an overall colour scheme and at the same time provide contrast of tones which makes for interest and attractiveness.

In the matter of Technique the most points are awarded for method of planting and rockwork. Planting must be done to give the appearance that the plants are not only actually growing but have been in those same positions for some time - this can hardly be achieved if roots are left showing waving about above the compost, or if lumps of lead are in evidence, also plants must be positioned in the normal growing in the normal attitude taken up by the particular species. e.g. vallisneria with its crown at the surface of the gravel; plants naturally grow in groves or clumps - so keep them that way to achieve a natural as well as an artistic effect.

Rocks, where they are used, must have a natural appearance - heavy penalties are incurred, for sharp edges - and traces of algae here do add to the effect; of course one should, avoid limestones, marbles, etc., - in fact any "soft" looking rock would, be apt to make the judge suspicious and incur his or her displeasure; in arranging rockwork care should be taken to choose pieces of a size in keeping with the volume of the tank, and to arrange for any strata lines to run in the SAME direction. Complete absence of rocks would not be penalised provided that, in the judges opinion, the actual design of the tank was effective without them.

Compost should be of a type which will encourage plant growth, i.e. sufficiently coarse to enable mulm to work down to the roots, but not too coarse so as to allow particles of food to lodge among the pieces and lead to putrefaction and ultimate fouling of the water; some effort should be made to match compost to rockwork, but in the case of say a red sandstone the too closely matched colour of the rock and compost ( red sand) would tend to give too overpowering an effect of red.

Of Clarity, all one could say was that the gravel and the glass (inside and out must be absolutely clean; gravel can only be brought to this state by very patient and thorough washing in small quantities at a time.

The President closed his talk by expressing the hope that as many members as possible would enter this years "Home Aquarium Competition".

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Blomfield for his excellent lecture from which all were able to learn a lot. May his effort be rewarded by you all coming forth with your entry for this competition. Our thanks also to Mrs.. Cotgrove and Mrs.. Green for dispensing the liquid, with or without with or without , as your fancy dictated.

#### AUCTION SALE.

'In the absence of Mr. Giles, who we were sorry to hear had caught t flu ( -a speedy recovery Horace) Mr. C. Brooks acted as hammer basher-in-chief. It was announced before the Auction got under way that the share of the proceeds normally retained by the Club would be donated, suitably increased by a donaticn from Club funds, to help towards the relief of these in our locality to whom the floods had brought suffering and hardship. In all just under a hundred lots were disposed of, amongst them some real bargains (You lucky people!)

Mr. Blomfield after thanking Mr. Brooks also thanked the members who put in lots for having borne out his appeal re the quality of lots offered for disposal.

Our thanks to Mrs. Du Boisson and Mrs. Keeling for dispensing many cuppas and slabs.

### THE HOME AQUARIUM COMPETITION.

This competition is held annually and three awards are made, two to the best efforts, the third, as was the case last year, to the tank whose owner has not gained a place in a similar competition before, and which, in the view of the judges, is the best effort taking into account the experience of the member and the length of time he or she has been a member of the Club. This prize is designed to appeal to new members, and it is hoped that there will be an excellent response. The older members will, of course, vie with each other in an effort to win the Giles Cup, the first prize, though this can be won by a "novice" (to the everlasting shame of the "experts" should this happen), or another cup allotted for the second prize. As I am able to announce that our worthy President (who has won all such competitions during the past two years) is a non-starter it is anticipated that there will be a larger number of entries than ever.

I know I express the opinion of you all when I thank Mr. Blomfield for this magnificent gesture as we have little doubt that but for this gesture on his part there would be no change of ownership in 1953. This year he's one of the; Judges, of whom there are three;, the others being Mr. Jack Brooks, one of last years Judges and the third, yours truly.

The competition will commence in April and will last until June, during which time the Judges will twice visit your home to inspect your entry. Naturally we shall try and catch you on the hop. To this end we will not announce, the date of our visit but the entry form will enable you to state the evenings of the week most convenient to you viz. Mon. and Fri. 7.30-9 p.m. but naturally not specific dates.

Closing date for entries will be April 7th, the entry fee 2/- per tank. You may enter as many tanks as you wish. So for the moment plan your design etc., in your mind's eye and when the time comes to return your entry form don't think about it, ENTER FOR IT.

You will receive a further reminder of this competition in next months magazine, when the entry form will be issued

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Poor little widow she's "outwardly bound",  
She's joined all the fish in the far hunting ground,  
Her innards were mangled, her outers were sound,  
In doing her duty she finished, egg-bound.

M. C. M.

**ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF M.C.M .**

by I. G. Swill

Our Honorary Adviser reports having been asked his advice on a peculiar problem. A friend contacted him and stated that a hitherto unknown growth had manifested itself on the glass of his aquaria. The fact that it appeared on all his tanks was not so baffling as that, though each individual colony did not increase in size, the number of colonies rapidly increased.

Our H. A. not having experienced such a problem before, rather than try to give advice without knowing what he was talking about, investigated in person. While he could form no concrete opinion of the conditions under which these eyesores flourished, he was able to remove them easily with the aid of a sponge rubber-scraper. His success was, however, short-lived for by the end of the week they were reported, to be as numerous as before.

This time our H. A. suspecting them of being a bacterial instead of an algal growth suggested the complete sterilization of the tank, thus hoping to destroy the spores carrying the infection. This was done but to no avail. There at the end of another week was another beautiful (?) crop of these unsightly growths on the glass must state at this stage of the story that these growths were on the EXTERNAL surface of the glass.

Our H. A. can only suggest to other members who may experience this phenomenon that the brats, with their dirty, sticky fingers are kept away from the tanks!

**FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS.**

March. 3rd. Our first session this year of that amusing and informative Quiz Game "TWENTY QUESTIONS".

March, 17th. You've asked for it - you've got it!

A SOCIAL EVENING so bring your sticks of chewing gum and your voices and forget the forthcoming Budget and your inhibitions. You can do what you like, but keep the party clean! But whatever you do, do ROLL UP and make the evening a wow!

You've a piano and surely we have somebody who can vamp? Musically I mean! Quite a lot of us must be able to tell a good story -the only trouble is to keep them clean!

### **BREEDERS CLASS ENTRIES FOR THE ANNUAL SHOW.**

The following is included, mainly for the benefit of new Members.

For "security reasons" it has been decided that ALL POTENTIAL ENTRIES in this class must be notified at birth. The birth "certificate", giving the name of the breeder, the species bred and the date of spawning, if an egg-layer, or the birth, in the case of livebearers, together with a fee of sixpence must be submitted to the Hon. Sec. The details will then be published in the next issue Of the Journal. A member of the committee will, at some later date, arrange to call to verify the facts. The fee is offset against the appropriate entry fee payable for the Annual Show.

**MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT NO ENTRY FOR THIS CLASS IS ACCEPTED THAT HAS NOT BEEN DULY ENTERED AND THE DETAILS PUBLISHED.**

P.S. Have you noticed that at the majority of shows the winners are; nearly always egg-layers aged 3-5 months or livebearers aged 4- 6 months, i.e. in both cases well grown youngsters?

### **THE MONTHLY QUIZ - SECOND INSTALMENT.**

How did you make out in last month's anagrams?

Just to confirm that your answers were correct the solutions are given below :-

1. HETERANDRIA FORMOSA the mosquito
2. CORYDORAS PALEATUS the catfish.
3. LEBISTES RETICULATUS the guppy
- 4 BARBUS LATERISTRIGA the spanner barb
5. DERMOGENYS PUSILLUS the half beak
6. MOLLIENISIA VELIFERA the sail-fin
7. TANICHTHYS ALBONUBES the White Cloud Mountain
8. BETTA SPLENDENS the Siamese fighter.

As last month they are all tropicals

@1 ORANGES MAIL A TIME  
@2. R.I.P. 1S TELL A RIDDLE  
"@3. I LAY MUM'S SON'S EASE.  
@4. O ERIC REELSTRAIGHT!  
&@5. GROUP ELASTIC SLEEEVES  
@6. A SAGE OK BARRRELS  
-&7 MULE GRASP ION ? YEAH!  
%8. A NEAT NUDE SITS A BUS!

The clues are :-

@ a community fish  
" not very common  
& a specialist's fish  
-not a good community fish  
% mostly suitable for Public Aquariums.

Happy Solving, solvers.

The Editor.

### **WILLISENALIA - THE JOTTINGS OF A MADBRAIN! .**

It has been reported that a public aquarium is to be opened in Piccadilly Circus. Stocked with neons, glowlights, beacons and zebras?

Oil drill finds fish 500 feet down. (Headline in Daily Telegraph) How much deeper for the chips?  
Whale hits liner and stops it. (Report in daily papers). Weight does tell you know !

”  
The Man in Black reported missing again. Chasing Billy Hoare's pet *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi* ?

**A "BITING STORY"**

by M. C. Mash.

It was during the glorious days of prohibition in America. A weather-beaten Irish seaman got; his shore-leave in New York and roamed the streets with his tongue out in search of some strong liqueur. Taking his courage in both hands he approached one of the city's glamorous cops, whose belt was bristling with half a dozen .45 Colts, and who swung his solid rubber truncheon to and fro in quiet anticipation.

"Say bud, what angle do I take to get a swig of whiskey?" "An angle of 60 degrees – 221½, 135th Street, Mike Donogan is the name - tell him you want a snake-bite -the only way of getting whiskey legitimately".

The weather-beaten Irish seaman made his way hastily to 135th Street, for his longing was great. But he was surprised and mortified to find & long queue awaiting to be bitten by Mike Donogan's snake at N°.221½. . However, he joined the queue. Later in the day he presented himself at the drug store (Americas apology for a "pub") and demanded rye ( Americas apology for whisky)

"On what grounds?" asked the druggist. "Snake-bite", said the weather-beaten Irish seaman. "Legitimate" said the. druggist – "Show!". "Well," said the weather-beaten Irish seaman, "as a matter of fact I went to get bitten, but Mike's snake was too tired to bite when my turn so I bit him!"

"Legitimate snake-bite," said the druggist — "Here's your rye .(America's apology for whisky).

**OLD TALES RE-TALED .**

D. B. with his beacons,  
George Cooke with his barbs,  
Regardless of seasons  
In workaday garbs,  
Spawning their fishes  
ORDERS from Mrs.  
D. B was. a`cheating  
Used methylene blue,  
George Cook was appealing.  
To Heaven I know,

## A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE WITH A GOLDFISH.

by H. A. Giles.

While sitting in the armchair, dreaming of the fishes I have always been going to breed, I was somewhat surprised to see a complete stranger staggering up my front path with a tank in his arms.

Upon opening the door to him I further observed that the aforesaid tank contained a goldfish, some 8 inches long.

Introducing himself to me the owner of the fish explained that a mutual friend (?) had told him I might help.

Making no rash promises, I said that I would do what I could for the sufferer, and it was thereupon left to my tender(?) mercies.

First I cleaned out a 36" tank, and made the usual salt solution (3 teaspoons to the gallon, gradually increasing this until there were about 5 teaspoons to the gallon). An aerator tended to offset any slight distress to the patient. Thinking to hasten the cure, I dipped a piece of cloth in Mercurchrome and wiped off the spot of Fungus (about the size of a penny). All went well for a couple of days, though the flesh which had been treated had turned dead white.

Then one day a sudden noise caused the fish to turn quickly, with the appalling result that the whole of the treated flesh came away, leaving a gaping wound, which bled profusely, and in which the fish's backbone was clearly visible. Not being trained in surgery, I felt somewhat sick, and decided that, speaking in the vernacular the poor fish had "had it". Hope, however, springs eternal, so I hurriedly increased the salt content, in order to stop the bleeding, and left the aerator working all day, feeling there was little else I could do.

Strangely enough the fish seemed none the worse for his loss, and gradually developed a wonderful appetite for garden worms. The water was changed from time to time as it tended to go stale very quickly, and after about a month of this, the flesh appeared to be gradually filling in around the edges of the wound. This progress continued, very slowly, until, after some four months the scales completely covered the orifice, and he was returned to his owner - with just a slight "dent" to show for his "operation".

It was certainly a labour of love, keeping such a fish supplied with about half a dozen garden worms daily, but it was worth it - to see such a marvellous recovery.

### TABLE SHOW RESULTS.

Yours Truly, having adjudged Mr Mash to have obtained the 1st, 2nd and 4th places In the Guppy table show held at the meting on 20th of January has given him a flying start towards retaining the Southchurch Cup, awarded to the member who gains the highest number of points from table shows held during the year. Mr. Hoare. Broke the "white wash" by taking 3rd place.

Our next table show is for "Any Variety Livebearer" (except of course Guppies) will take place on March the 3rd , so don't leave at home the beauties which, according to opinions made after the show had been judged, would have beaten those brought along, BRING `EM ALONG, increasing the competition and go home with the satisfaction of having secured the first place. It only costs a tanner an entry.

The table show entry form for your prize-winner is enclosed. Hand it, together with your entry fee to our Hon. Sec. on the night of March 3rd. when I hope the judge will have his work cut out to pick the winner.

### A COMMENT BY THE EDITOR

Every member receives for every table show the appropriate entry form, while the number of forms handed in to the Hon: Sec: on the actual night it is obvious that a very large number are relegated to the W.P.B. It would considerably help the club if members who are not exhibiting would bring the forms along with them and hand them to me or any other member of the committee (other than the Hon: Sec:.) You would be surprised if you knew how much paper is used in sending out roughly 80 entry forms every time when the majority serve little purpose.

For this reason the relevant spaces on the forms for the date of the show have been left blank. It saves me time and they aren't much use for future use if that small space is already occupied with an obsolete date.

### AN EPITAPH

by M.C.Mash

Here lies the body of Scarface the fiter,  
Who departed this life for another – much briter?  
His age was immense, he broke the defense,  
Of each other fiter – both sliter and liter,

He slew all his rivals with teeth that were witer,

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### **Subscriptions**

From information given me by the Hon. Treas. many more Journals are being issued than there are paid up members. It may be that you have been unable to attend the meetings held so far this year, in which case may I ask you to make a special effort and send your subscription to either the Hon. Sec. (address AS per cover) or to the Hon. Treasurer the address is :-

I. Cotgrove Esq., 103, Queens Road, Southend.

II.

For those whose subscriptions are not received before the next issue of the Journal comes off the press, this will be the last free issue.

### **THE JOURNAL COMPETITION,**

Your committee has agreed that club funds WILL give added incentive to solving the puzzle. It will take a more abstract form than a replacement of the pencil you have used, and will be of greater financial value.

A voucher to the value of 2/6d. will be awarded to the first correct solution received by the first post a fortnight after the second meeting of the month in which the Journal was issued. Your answers should be forwarded to the Editor, (my address is stated on the cover) and the envelope should be clearly marked "Competition". No solutions will be opened before that deadline date - you have thus an evens chance with the member who burns the midnight oil in his effort to be first with the answer. THE EDITOR'S DECISION SHALL BE FINAL.

### **STOP PRESS.**

The Club Library has benefited from the Auction Sale to the extent of the copy of Ian Harmen's "Tropical Aquarium" for which Mr. F C. Austin gave the reserve price. In addition he also increased the amount for the Flood Relief Fund by ten shillings. Thank you very much Mr. Austin for your magnificent gesture.

The Library was also increased to the tune of 1947 and 1948 issues of the "Aquarist"

**SOUTHEND LEIGH & DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.  
MONTHLY. JOURNAL**

Vol, 6 No, 3 March, 1955,

The Society meets at 7. 45 pm, on the First and Third Tuesday in each month at:-  
THE LIBERAL HALL Clarence Road, Southend-On-Sea,  
EDITORIAL.

Dear Spring Cleaners,

Departing from matters "aquarastical" to matters piscatorial we shall soon have the close season for coarse fishing upon us, This is a sign that our English winter - and what a winter it has been- is giving way to the season when trees begin to bud, birds (both kinds) adorn themselves in bright array and a young man's thoughts (and the not-so-young) turn to breeding - fishes, naturally!

We tropical enthusiasts are, however, not so much at the mercy of inclement Nature.; we can create artificially the stimuli to which our fishes naturally respond in the Spring, when the days draw out and the water's less chilly and reproduction of the species is the driving thought. All of which is by way of exhorting you to get cracking - don't forget we`ve a Breeders Class in our forthcoming Annual Show.

While I appreciate that we mere males may not be the usual( ?) welcome occupants of our homes when our womenfolk start that annual bugbear, spring cleaning, we can in no small measure contribute to the general dis-order of chaos by setting up the tank which we are, of course, entering for the Home Aquarium competition.

So , happy cleaning, renovating, redecorating and generally getting into repair the ravages of time on the home-front - and in the home aquarium!

YOUR'S in dust covers,

The Editor.

### CLUB NEWS.

Once again we showed Enterprise (or should it be the other way about?) and heard an excellent talk by Mrs Meadows on how not to do things and later on as you will read, how to do things! Mrs. Meadows has one inherent quality in that, instead of telling us what we can read in books, she only relates that which she has found to be the way, or otherwise, of setting about things.

Like most of us she explained that she started in a small way and continued amassing tanks until they were everywhere - so also were the wires! Tidiness was her first point. Her first fishes consisted in the main of live bearers which she fed (and overfed with disastrous results) on Bemax only. She soon found out as have most of us that all bread and no jam does not produce the best results. Like our Hon. Sec. she also makes her own brand of fish food consisting of ground up dog biscuit, horse liver (dried and ground), dried shrimp (legs, tail and body but excluding the heads if she has time to remove them!) ground split peas, fine oatmeal, Bemax and to most of us a new one, dried herring. This latter she partly boils, to remove a lot of the natural oil, before drying and grating. All the components can be kept in separate jars ready for mixing in the desired quantities.

Tanks in tiers or stepped? Mrs. Meadows found that the latter arrangement gave the better results both for fish and plants but added that space often was the deciding factor.

Having reached the stage where we decide that we can have a "go" the first essential, naturally, is to be sure our fishes are a pair. Having spawned them the difficulty begins. Raising them in numbers is our aim, not in dozens. Infusoria she cultures on boiled spinach leaves and fresh potato, not for her the stinking, smelly filth from banana skins. First feeds must be powder fine or microscopic other wise fry will starve in the midst of plenty because they are unable to swallow the food particles. If the infusoria culture fails we were given a very useful tip, a spoonful of milk introduced into the tank will quickly produce a fine culture. Mrs. Meadows explained, however, that she prefers to drip feed infusoria so that the amount can be regulated and having strained them from the growing medium she knows that only infusoria are being fed. Take them. from the BOTTOM of the culture, those forming a scum on the surface are mostly dead. Infusoria should only be fed for two or three days, you should then progress to freshly hatched brine shrimp, micro and other feeds.

Fry should, when large enough ( say about two weeks old) be moved to other tanks and a net lined to a depth of

an inch or so from the bottom with oiled, silk makes an easy catcher and ensures that the minimum injury is caused to the delicate fry. For re-netting an ideal material is a cheap curtain net. A good way of removing water without fry from the tank to counter balance that added when drip feeding infusoria is to use a diffuser block on a length of rubber tubing as a siphon but it must be regulated by a clamp.

Before passing on to how to do things Mrs. Meadows sounded a warning. Always isolate all new fishes from whatever source and in this way you should never suffer from white SPOT infection. To minimize the risk of infection among your own tanks when feeding micro transfer the micro from the brush with which you have collected them into a small jar of water of the same temperature as your tanks and pour in the mixture.

Mrs. Meadows then passed to matters more difficult, Glowlights, breeding of, tank size 18" x 10" x 10", using willow root that has been well boiled. Temp. 76 degrees, water a mixture of tap and boiled with the addition of half a pint of distilled water. Top light MUST be cut down to a large extent. Eggs hatch in 12 hours, fry are free swimming in 48 hours, Feed infusoria for two or three days then give freshly hatched brine shrimp. Fry grow fast and can be moved in a fortnight.

Harlequins also require very soft water but Cryptocorynes should be used instead of willow root on which the eggs will be deposited. Tiger barbs will spawn more easily in half tap and half boiled. water. If the females prove obstinate in refusing to yield up their eggs they may be placed in salt . water and then transferred to the spawning tank.

The talk finished en a warning note. Having conditioned your fishes prior to spawning on earth worm, white worm, gnat larvae and daphnia DON'T feed daphnia in the breeding tank. Interlopers such as Mayfly larva can cause havoc among the fry,

Appreciation was shown in the normal way to Mrs. Meadows for a very informative talk. Silent appreciation was also recorded to Mesdames Gibbs and Giles who did for us.

The meeting held on March 3rd produced some puzzled frowns on the brows of these trying to find the solution to Vegetable, Mineral, Animal, or Abstract, particularly when one of the objects was all or any of these or any combination of them In other words you will have gathered that it was a Twenty Questions Quiz. In view of the .lovely (sorry lousy!) weather that we had for that evening the attendance was all that could be expected. Our thanks to our own NAAFI ladies, on this occasion Mrs. Blomfield and Mrs. Du Boisson for service with a smile of consumables far above those associated with NAAFI proper!

**ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF M.C.M**

**by I.G.Swill**

One of our members who attended, a fairly recent club meeting when a talk was given on aquatic plants reported to our Honorary Adviser that, contrary to what had been said about certain species not flowering under aquarium conditions all his plants were in flower. When he added that these included Cryptocorynes, Spatterdock, Amazon Sword and the Madagascan Lace plant our H. A. was amazed.. Being a conscientious sort of a bloke he asked to be allowed to see the spectacle.

Sure enough the claim was no idle one, the aquarium resembling a garden landscape rather than an aquatic one. Determined to get to the bottom of the mystery our H. A. asked the member if he, or his wife, (isn't it amazing how much we aquarists depend upon our wives support in our hobby?) had any idea of the number of hours of direct sunlight: that the tank received and was shaken when it was pointed out that the tank was in a window facing north!

True to his calling he asked permission to take a sample of the mulm and compost, which he placed in a sterilized test-tube and filled another with a sample of the water. These he submitted for analysis but the report, when received did not throw much light on the problem. It merely revealed the presence of the ordinary organic salts, in normal quantities that one would expect to find in an established aquarium.

Our H. A. can only assume that as the fishes in the tank were *Pantodon buchholzi* and *Brachygnathops xanthozonus* the plants had decided to provide gainful employment for these "butterflies" and "bumble bees" !

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT,**

Due to circumstances beyond our control the Club outing previously notified as being held on Sunday, April 28th has had to be postponed until Sunday May.17th. It will consist of a visit to a breeders establishment in Surrey so make a note of the new date Sunday 17th MAY,

Also due to the haste with which the programme was produced it wasn't realized that.. a Table Show for Fighters and Angels had been omitted. This is now rectified and will take place in conjunction with the Table Show arranged for Danios and A.O.V. Cichlids on October 20th. Will you please make the necessary amendment to your programme card ? Thank you !

**WORDS... WORTH ....APOLOGY,**

by M. Cotgrove

I pondered, gazing at a “Cloud”,  
That gleaming silver, swam on high,  
When all at once I saw a crowd  
A host of mountain minnow fry.  
Above the mulm, below the weed,  
I saw the baby fishes feed.  
Oh with what joy- I did. descry  
These darting flashing gleaming streaks,  
Tanichthys albonubes fry  
Awaited now for many weeks.  
A hundred. saw I at one glance  
Frisking about amongst the plants.  
What loving care I lavished then  
With infusoria, micro, brine,  
I was the happiest of men,  
There never had been such fish as mine.  
I planned with glee , misguided wretch,  
What wealth to me their sale would fetch.  
And oft when by my tank am I,  
In aquartistic vacant mood.,  
They flash upon my Inward eye,  
That innocent and happy brood  
They've joined the angels now – my luck!  
The darned old thermostat got stuck!

**WILLISENALIA or THE JOTTINGS OF A MADBRAIN.**

Watch for the rare books man. ( Headline in D. Express)  
He's already got the copy of Harvey & Hems.

'Cold War` chief for US. ( D. Telegraph:.)  
I didn't know C.J.S. was trying to interest Americans in goldfish

120 mile walk by cat.(News item in D, Telegraph)  
Thats nothing mine has swum farther than that!

Move against slow drivers. (D. Telegraph.)  
Kit Outing shakes'em with; alternate H & C to make'em get on with the job.

£20,000 Zebra scheme (New item in D. Telegraph)  
Thats an awful lot of zebras!

-30-

**WELL KNOWN AQUARISTS AT HOME**  
by M.C. Mash.

No. 5 Emmie Grammus.

The Editor called me into his sanctum recently and I WAS commissioned, to visit the beautiful Emmie for the benefit of saps who contribute to the "Foulwater Gazette".

It was on a beautiful July morning that I paid a long overdue visit to Emmie at her home in the Cotswolds. She was sitting on a camp chair in a rose-covered arbor and the scent of other old-time flowers, like mignonette, stocks and lavender assailed my nostrils as I approached her unannounced. She wore a filmy white dress that enhanced her beauty and her crossed legs were encased in gossamer-like nylons that shone like neons. Her hair hung in profuse curly masses round her shoulders, reminding me somehow of clumps of golden bladderwort. Her eyebrows were like flecks of downy sea moss and the lashes of her gazelle-like eyes resembled super-myriophyllum. Multi-coloured butterflies fluttered round her head and occasionally settled on her bare neck and shoulders.. She seemed to be contemplating a patch of cat mint and had not noticed my approach but was not startled on suddenly looking up and seeing me; instead she smiled a welcome that warmed the heart (not to mention the liver and the kidneys).

"Please forgive this intrusion" I began; but she cut me short with "You. are M.C.M. of the "Foulwater Gazette" and now I suppose you would like to see my tropicals?"

"If it is convenient", I replied, breathing with difficulty.

"Follow me then ", she said in a voice like a Mendelssohn concerto., which curdled my blood.

I felt as though treading on the evacuating bubbles of an aerator as we passed slowly through a loggia to a sunken garden in which fountains played into alabaster basins of crystal water, which served for the ablutions of myriad rainbow coloured birds.

We went into a small appointed fish-house that led from the garden and I could not help noticing that Miss Grammus moved like a piece of poetry - in fact, one could almost remark - Emmie Grammus on ice !

She was a specialist in those handsome Characins -Hemmigrammus ullreyi, ocellifer, caudovittatus, pulcher, unilineatus and rhodostomus, and the noses of the latter out rivalled Rudolf's. She told me that her eiderdown quilt was composed entirely from feathers from the fins of her unilineatus and that the high wattaged beacons of her ocellifers were so strong as to need no other heating in the tank, and I can readily vouch that she was not putting on Buenos Aires in saying this.

After spending some hours inspecting her numberless tanks, which I might say were spotlessly clean and smelt strongly of eau-de-Cologne and syrup of figs, we adjourned to an anteroom to take afternoon tea, served by a butler in a sky blue uniform trimmed with rolled gold fish-shaped

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buttons. He dealt me a hand of fish paste sandwiches that were out of this world, (but do not think that dead'uns were used for this purpose).

Emmie and I talked of lots of feminine matters, such as manicures, spring sales, Toni perms, chiropody, bikinis and. her operation, and I took my leave wondering what I'd been to see her about.

After overshooting three lots of traffic lights and playing "dodgems" with a couple of pedestrians on a zebra crossing I was brought to my senses when an observant constable demanded to see my license (although I protested that I was single). He also took the car number, but I subsequently thought the thirty bob fine was money well spent. and can honestly recommend male readers of the "Foulwater Gazette" to spare a day to visit Emmie Grammis, but do not mention it to the wife! .

#### **OLD TALES - RE~TALED**

Magazines and printed matter,  
Fish and plants, tanks, equipment,  
ALL the members idle chatter ( 60)  
Almost fill the firmament  
At our Auction sale. meetings  
How to keep your tank much cleaner,  
How to breed your fishes prime,  
Certain members who are keener ( 30)  
Note the date and come in time  
To attend more formal meetings.  
Only some who're interested  
( Which of course, should mean you all)  
In a cup their hopes lie vested (10 - is it so many ?)  
Bring their fishes to our hall  
At the table show meetings

### **THE HOME AQUARIUM, COMPETITION,**

Even after you read this you will still have two weeks before entries close. This however is not to be taken as an excuse to put off till tomorrow that which can be done to-day! You have received many reminders of the forthcoming competition.; in fact it has been mentioned in each of our Journals this year. This is positively the last reminder -after this it's too late as the competition will be under way.

SO DON'T THINK ABOUT IT - ENTER FOR IT NOW,

Entry forms are enclosed, please fill them in and return to the Hon. Sec, as soon as possible. For those who delight in leaving things till the last minute, like those who receive the Final Demand. Notice before paying the rates, the dead-line date for entries is the night of the first meeting in April, i.e. the Auction Sale.

So that you may know which features gained you high marks for having attracted the judges' eye (and those that didn't!) a detailed list of points will be issued in a future Journals in time to enable you to remedy the defects in time for the Annual Show, when, of course, the Furnished Aquarium Class will be judged by officials appointed by the Federation,

### **THE NEVER NEVER.**

For the benefit of members who wish to attend the Annual Dinner to be held in November but who are unable to cough up the whole of the necessary at one fell swoop for the requisite number of tickets our Hon. Treas. has kindly agreed to hold. the stake; as and when you are able to make a contribution. Such contributions do not accumulate any interest!

### **A LAMENT.**

Lack of funds is my misfortune  
Neons when it comes to buy,  
Having laid out pounds on babies  
All, as youngsters, seem to die.  
Now at last I have two older  
Than all others I have bought,  
Fully grown, for spawning ready,  
Both are MALES - have I been caught?

### AEREEATION

If we analyzed aeration for our own elucidation,  
It must mean dissemination of amassed putrefaction  
Thro' decaying vegetation; let me give an illustration :-  
By infusing oxidation with a bubble jet pulsation  
It prevents the suffocation of the fishy population.  
We hope!

In the course of an oration for the sake of education  
Came a flow of indignation and expression of vexation,  
Not to mention condemnation , which occasioned consternation,  
When without an explanation the theme was aereation.,.  
So help me never !

So we sought for information from the fishy Federation  
Who admitted no foundation for the crude pronunciation  
In fact it's adaption gave them cause for meditation  
Their advice was a cessation of words such as aeration.  
So help ME NEVER!

In the year of coronation when we are filled with jubilation  
And amidst our mass elation we refrain from  
lamentation Let's evoke some  
legislation to cut out the degradation  
To our great and glorious nation by the use of aereation:.  
So help me never!

Thus on the termination of the nations celebration  
We'll re-wake in animation and according to our station  
Demand assassination or the slow asphyxiation  
With attendant internation of the "fans of aereation"  
So help me never!

Then we'll get some indication of the words unification  
Not without a notification to every fish association  
Must forgetting derivation - so securing their salvation

### **TABLE SHOW RESULTS.**

What the entries lacked, in numbers they certainly made up for in quality at the Table Show for A.O.V. Livebearers held at the meeting on March 3rd. The judge, Mr "Jack" Brooks in announcing the results said that each prize winner was separated from the next by one point only in each case!

Mr Mash's virtual monopoly was halted, and new names featured in the list of winners, who were:-

- 1st. Mr. Cooper            Golden Wagtail Platy.
- 2nd Mr. Mash Blue Platy.
- 3rd Mrs Sweetenham Sphenops
- 4th Mr. Hoare Blue Platy

It is interesting to note that in all cases the platies exhibited were females. It is agreed that it is much harder to produce males of such a high standard but remember that, whereas for table shows fish may be shown singly, for the Annual Show fish will be shown in pairs. Twenty points are allotted for matching - so don't forget the male of the species is just as important as the female - whatever our "better halves" have to say on the matter!

### **The CORONATION TROPHY**

A new Trophy has been purchased by the club to mark the auspicious year in which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, will be crowned.

As yet it has not been definitely decided for what this trophy should be awarded.

It has been suggested that in accordance with last years F.B.A.S. judge , the breeders class should be sub-divided into an egglayer and a livebearer section.

A further suggestion was that it might rank with the "Jones" Cup and that one should be awarded to the best livebearer and the other to the best egglayer at the Annual Show.

The committee would appreciate any suggestions that the members may have towards the solution of a difficult problem, being in mind the fact the presentation of the new trophy marks such an auspicious occasion.

If you can think of any other alternatives to the above don't hide your light under a bushel- let us have it in time for the Annual Show

G.G.W

**THE MONTHLY QUIZ .**

Did you find the clues any help in solving last month's puzzle? The solution (as though you didn't know) is given below—

1. LIMIA MELONAGASTER the Blue Limia.
2. PRISTELLA RIDDLEI the X-ray
3. ESOMUS MALAYENSIS the Flying Barb.
4. TRICHOGASTER LEERI the Pearl Gourami. .
5. GASTEROPELECUS LEVIS .the Hatchet.
6. RASBORA ELEGANS the Elegant Rasbora.
7. APHYSEMION GULARE the Blue Gularis.
8. ANABAS TESTUDINEUS the Climbing Perch.

In the absence of any entries the prize is held over. To be awarded for the first correct solution received and opened on Tuesday, March 31st, will be a voucher to the value of 2/6d. Entries to be received at my address by first post, the envelope to be marked "Competition" in the top right hand corner. Here are this month's anagrams, it only remains for you to solve them and send off the answers.

1. @ HONEY INN'S SOBER PHYSIC.
2. @ IF I'M HER GRAM MOLECULES. '
3. @ OLD JADE FOR LEAN LIAR.
4. @ BY STATUTE I BAR.
5. @ / QUERY POLES' COB CONE.
- 6--@ CURSE A FALL - A.W.O.L. !
7. -@ HUG? GRASP AS A SCOUT !
8. %~ OUT A PURE LISLE MAT? CURSE.

— CLUES.:-

% a community fish

— - seldom seen

% not a community fish.

Don't forget entries close March 31st. The Editor's decision is final!

**AN EPITAPH.**

Over this goldfish draw a veil,  
He thought he could enlarge his tail,  
But like all others he did fail

To stand the test - his face grew pale.  
His gills expand - he sheds a scale,  
And then some more - they fall like hail,  
Immersed in salt inside a pail  
He died in peace so do not wail.

*M. C. M.*

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#### **OUR FIRST OUTING OF 1953.**

Arrangements have been made for the hire of one coach with a seating capacity for 39 persons to transport those who wish to visit Mc Lynn's Aquarium at Ewhurst, Surrey on our first outing this year, i.e. SUNDAY 17th MAY. The fare will be 7/6d. per seat. Members who would like to combine a pleasant journey with a piscatorial interest added are advised to pay for their seats when staking their reservation. It will be a case of first come, first served.

Further details will be publicised in the April Journal watch for it. No arrangements will be made for lunch or tea members can bring sandwiches or avail themselves of the services of local hostelrys. We shall, of course, break our return journey for a meal - optional. So pay up and travel in comfort because if you "dilly and dally, dally and dilly, Lose your seat, you'll darned well have to well have to walk.

#### **AN APPEAL TO ALL.**

We are all aquarists or we shouldn't belong to the Club; AS Club members we all read (I hope) our Journal but as Club members we DON'T all -(that's not put the emphasis where I wanted it so let me do it again !) - we don't ALL seem to contribute to the Journal. This year apart from the unending stream from Mark (M.C.M. to you) there have been only two articles sent by other members. Surely some among you must have some experience to relate - even if it only serves as a warning to others as the result of something that didn't plan out as desired! Whatever it is put your pen to paper and let me have a copy, because its COPY I urgently need.

The Editor.

#### **ANOTHER LAMENT (Dedicated to George Cooke)**

Two tiger barbs I have placed  
For spawning in my aquarium.  
One faces north, t'other south,  
Needless to say I swearatum!

G. G. G. H.

#### **SLADAS MART AND EXCHANGE.**

Electric meter - will record current consumed by heaters etc. for sale. Price 10/-. Advice for fixing given, if required Apply to:" F. Escott Esq., 16, Edinburgh Ave. , Leigh. ( Phone 78192)

***SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARI&T SOCIETY.***

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol. 6 No. 4 April. 1953,

The Society meets at 7. 45 p.m. on the First and. Third Tuesday in each month at:-

THE LIBERAL HALL

Clarence Read.,

Southend-On-Sea.

**EDITORIAL.**

Dear Breeders ALL,

Another Budget has come and gone and I leave you to sort out whether you are any better off. Having got that worry over we can new look forward. to a period of intense activity culminating in August.

Having put our house in order the serious business of breeding should occupy our attention. We have had one bash at spring cleaning and should now take advantage of the warmer weather (if any!) and the longer hours of daylight and clean out our fishes ~ of their eggs and milt !

As earthworms, we are told, are the best conditioning food for our egglayers we males look like doing two jobs in one. Our gardens will receive a new look in our effort, from the scarcity of earthworms in my locality, to satisfy the appetites of these finny creatures we are going to breed.

To those of us who are relatively new corners to the game a word of warning - don't count your fry before they hatch. Even after the hatching there's many a slip between the fry and the Cup.

OVERFEEDING is not one of them, provided we are prepared to siphon off the excess food that is always given in the case of growing fish to ensure that they have a sufficiency of food to ensure rapid growth. OVERCROWDING is an unpardonable sin. The fry should be regularly culled, that is the smaller, weaker or deformed youngsters should be weeded out and thrown away or fed to the bigger fishes as food. (Heartless brute aren't I ?) In our hobby it is true to say that one has to be cruel to be kind.

Efforts should be concentrated on the largest twelve fish, provided ,of course, that they are perfect. It is, however, very seldom that other than perfect fish are those that grow the fastest. These twelve should be given a tank to themselves so that there is no fear of overcrowding. From these twelve you should, when the time comes, pick the six large at, best matched fishes and then you can be sure that you are making it all the more difficult for somebody else to oust your claim to the Breeders Cup.

So here's wishing you success in the cup. Yours, also competing (**I** hope),

Editor

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### CLUB NEWS

'Twas St. Patrick's Day bedad when we held our last meeting in March but St. Patrick's Day with a difference. Gone was all pretense that we were aquarists, not that there was any show of the 'blarney!' but there was a SHOW! Those who answered the call brought along their friends to show the normal sane person that aquarists are not only sane but even human. So completely did we assume respectability that only once were fish ever brought into the entertainment to the complete mystification of one very young member of the audience! The highlights of the evening came, not from the professionals hired to amuse us, but from two child protégées with a charming song and tap-dance act, for which we are indebted to Mrs. Sweetenham.

Our Hon. Sec had the opportunity of a life-time for, having his wife all nicely trussed up, he, ably aided and abetted by our electrical wizard, then proceeded to cut her in half by means of a rope tied round her waist. Something misfired - she survived. Better luck next time! I don't know which produced the greater applause, the trick performed under the supervision of the conjurer or the disappointed look on our Hon. Sec.'s face.

The evening, which completely vindicated those who had stuck out for a Social in view of the previous fiasco wound up with us all singing merrily. It was no Bacchanalian orgy, the bun fight was ably controlled by .....

The Auction Show held on April 7th was its usual success, the customers seemed satisfied. Plants were in great demand and short supply, prices for fish and equipment being normal. The "'buy"' of the evening, to my way of thinking, was the Blue Acara ~ the Annual Show will tell.

While not strictly "Club News" in the normal sense, i.e. a resume of previous meetings, the following may interest members. Our Hon. Sec. and Mr. DuBoisson, not forgetting their wives, paid a request visit to our nearest neighbours. the Chelmsford Aquarist Society. It was, of course, a dark and foggy night, but with unerring skill "D.B" got them there alive. About twenty members were present to hear Mr. DuBoisson talk on "Spawning Mediums" and the use of methylene blue, etc. in breeding. The most interesting help to spawning a bunch of Coconut Fiber, as used by furniture upholsterers, was, it seemed, a good substitute for Willow root.

Afterwards, Mr. H. Giles talked on the subject "Can a Club Grow Too Large?". This somewhat controversial subject started quite a lively discussion among members and the evening passed all too quickly.

A somewhat unusual fact was, that there were no ladies present, Mrs. D. B. and Mrs. Giles excepted. Our friends of the Chelmsford Club said that their wives were either not interested or were at home babysitting. Mr Giles suggested that they should get a young lady friend, preferably blond and glamorous, to go to one meeting whereupon all the wives (Horace in his copy has "and the young ladies" but I rather doubt if he really meant to include them!) will attend future meetings !

The Southend Quartet were made very welcome by the Chelmsford Chairman, who took them home for supper and. even presented them with a can of daphnia to take home. It is rather a pity that there are not more and nearer Clubs in the area as this exchange of help, etc., seems to make for the right, spirit of the hobby.

Is my face red? Three errors have been made on page 38. Firstly to Mrs Keeling, Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs DuBoisson whose names have been omitted as the "controllers of the bun fight", next my memory, is at fault, the fish was of course a Jack Dempsey and not a Blue Acara, thirdly an omission, our thanks to Mrs Green and Mrs Cotgrove for managing to satisfy our appetites on the Auction night. Please accept my apologies.

Members will be sorry to hear that Mrs. P. Sullivan has been in hospital suffering from rheumatic fever, she is now on the mend and we hope to see her at our meetings in the near future,

Members may also like to know that Journals are being exchanged with the Orange County Aquarium Society, Anaheim, California,

#### **BREEDERS CLASS ENTRIES.**

THE season has got under way at last and the first registration of 1953 has been received.

The details are :-

Mr. D. E. Conner. Gold Wag Platies. Born 1/3/53.

#### **EXCURSION ARRANGEMENTS.**

Final details of the outing arranged for Sunday, May 17 th. The coach will leave the White Horse at 9 a.m. calling at the following points at five minute intervals -. Victoria Circus, Hamlet Court Rd., The Plough and Chalkwell Schools, Please be at your picking up points punctually.

*ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF M.C.M.*

by I.G.Swill

A new member of the Club approached our Honorary Adviser at a recent meeting with some trepidation, though why he shouldn't I don't know, it's what he's paid for, (unpaid Ed,) and apologizing profusely for troubling him sought his advice. The trouble, he explained, was that his fishes were very listless, their dorsals and tails were "pinched" and they had little interest in life or the staff of life.

The aquarium had been set up some two months, the plants were healthy and were growing well, the tank received no direct sunlight but was in a sunny room, there was only a small quantity of mulm with no evidence of overfeeding and the water was crystal clear. Artificial light was provided for about six hours a day and the thermostat, set at Normal was working effectively as shown by thermometer readings. In other words the tank sounded, except for the fish, in ideal condition,

On being asked by our H. A. what foods were used he replied that Bemax and two other dried foods were used in rotation. Our H. A. mentioned an occasional feed of enchytrae, daphnia, tubifex and 'ghost larva' etc., whereupon a frown developed on the brow of his questioner. H.A. duly explained that these were live foods obtainable from any dealer and should provide the zest of life that seemed lacking.

At the end of a fortnight no improvement in the condition of the fishes was apparent so our H.A. went to inspect. He could find no valid explanation for the lethargy of the fishes. Our H, A. can only suggest that if you must have blue tetras, blue platies, blue gularis and blue gouramis in a tank you must expect them to be down in the dumps.

**FORTH COMING ATTRACTIONS.**

May 5th. Another of those problem nights that keep you guessing with only the Quiz Master knowing all the answers. In other words another bash at 20 Questions. So roll up and enjoy the fun! For cold water fans you have your only chance in the TABLE SHOW for A.V. COLDWATER fish.

May 19th. Come and hear all about "BREEDING FISH". There will also be a Table Show for BARBS, bring'em along. Entry forms for both Table Shows will be available at the Hall on the night of the show.

*THE SNOWS OF KILIMANWESTCLIFF*

*by M.C.Mash.*

Thro` the wilds of Canvey Island,  
Round the Southchurch Boulevards,  
Trudging, tramping, plodding onwards  
First by feet and then by yards,  
Go a gallant band of seekers  
Peering into muddy brooks,  
They require elusive daphnia  
Hiding in their cosy nooks.  
Jungle warfare, holding terrors,  
Couldn't daunt these hardy men;  
Leeches, adders, snakes and gremlins  
Are ignored. But now and then  
Came a whoop of exultation,  
One has spotted something good,  
But alas they're one-eyed cyclops  
Seeking prey, as cyclops would  
Weary-eyed and heavy-laden,  
Kits on back and cans in hand,  
Risking dangers every moment  
Onward go the pilgrim band;  
Surely they will be rewarded  
With a bag of fishes' grub,  
But in vain they search the waters,  
Crushing back the reeds and scrub.  
Benfleet, Leigh, Belfairs and Eastwood,  
All are searched without success.  
Each and every ardent netter  
Netted naught but slime and mess.  
So beneath a weeping willow  
They confer with bated breath;  
Some were now for giving over,  
Others would go on — till death.  
But, with darkness spreading quickly,  
O'er the marshes and the dales,  
Flecks of snow began a`falling  
So they gathered up their pails.  
Homeward bound and heavy-hearted,  
Travel-stained heroic band  
Fought their way thro` piling snowdrifts

When, at last, they reached their homesteads  
Frozen stiff and racked with pain,  
Vowing they would never ever  
Search for "blooming" fleas again;  
There was needed no such statement  
As, before their fires they roast  
All — examining their fishes  
Found they'd given up the ghost.

#### THE MONTHLY QUIZ.

The solution to last month's quiz, which seems to have beaten you all judging by the absence of any envelopes marked 'Competition' is as follows:-

1. HYPHESSOBRYCON INNESI the Neon Tetra.
2. HEMIGRAMMUS OCELLI PER the Beacon.
3. JORDANELLA FLORIDAE . the Flag fish.
4. BARBUS TITTEYA the Cherry barb.
5. POECILOBRYGON EQUES the Pencil fish.
6. FARLOWELLA ACUS ... the Needle cat.
7. SCATOPHAGUS ARGUS the "Scat".
8. MALAPTERURUS ELECTRICUS the Electric Cat
- 9.

Here are this month's anagrams, put on your thinking caps and see if some solutions can arrive in the mail.

1. A BEER RIVET BUST.
- 2.. I'M A BALSALASS.
3. HOPE SELLS MINIPIANOS!
4. NYMPHS HEAR OF MUSCLE BOYS,
5. HAPPY? SORRY? SON, BESEECH.
6. O JURY! IS AIR COLD?
7. I "GNU" (! ) RAMS ELIMINATE HUMUS.
8. MERCY! SIMON BURNT ZYGOTE.

All the above are community fish and practically all our members will have possessed them at some time or other. Anyone who fails to solve number 8 should be asked to resign from the club ! That's the best clue I could give without actually printing the answer !

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS MONDAY, MAY 4 TH. IF NO ENTRIES ARE RECEIVED THE COMMITTEE MAY BE COMPELLED TO RESCIND THEIR PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED DECISION TO AWARD A VOUCHER,

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## **DOES HORMONE FEEDING REALLY WORK?**

By G.G. Willis

This article has been written with the idea of promoting argument, I would like to state that I have never used, any of the special hormone food preparation which, BOTH MANUFACTURERS CLAIM, WILL PRODUCE BROODS WITH A GREATER NUMBER OF MALES OR FEMALES THAN IS NORMAL AS DESIRED BY THE BREEDER ACCORDING TO WHICH HORMONE HAS BEEN FED TO THE FRY AFTER BIRTH,

Sex of the individual is determined at the moment of fertilisation of the egg cell by the sperm. Characters of the parents are passed to the offspring in the chromosomes of the reproductive cells, the structure of which differs greatly from the structure of the parent body cell, in that, in the latter the chromosomes are paired ( scientifically known as diploid) whereas in the reproductive cells these chromosomes are single (haploid). If this were not so each successive generation would possess double the number of chromosomes in it's body cells as were present in the body cells of it's parents and no genetic laws would be possible.

Every egg cell is to reduce it to basic language, neuter. All body cells of the female parent contain pairs of identical chromosomes, one of each pair being present in each of the resultant egg cells. On the other hand each diploid male body cell contains among the true paired chromosomes one that is not a true pair. Therefore each sperm cell, while containing one of each true pair of chromosomes, also contains one that is not a true pair. This type of cell division is known as reduction division and can be shown in the following manner :-

Diploid female body cell with chromosome characters produce two egg cells (haploid) with chromosome characters

Diploid male body cell with chromosome characters produce two sperm cells (haploid) with chromosome characters.

This odd chromosome is the only one concerned with sex determination. Where in fertilisation both the egg and the sperm cell contain identical chromosomes the resultant offspring will develop into a female, but where the Y character mates with any egg cell ( which only carries X characters) the resultant offspring will develop into a male.

In our hobby, even though at birth it is impossible to differentiate between eventual males and females, their sex is already determined. Visible differentiation, as in this case

of the degeneration of the ventral fin of the male livebearer into a gonopodium, does not take place until some time later.

Some of us may have experienced the phenomenon, particularly in livebearers, of a fish that has grown up as female and even had broods, suddenly developing the sexual characters of a male. The actual cause of this is by no means definite, but it is assumed that the special organs responsible for the secretion of the sex stimulating hormone have ceased to function in their normal manner and that instead of maintaining a preponderance of female hormone secretion in *the* female fish, thereby maintaining her "femininity", have started secreting larger quantities of male hormone thereby bringing about the sexual change. Very seldom, however, does the sex change take place in the opposite direction, i.e. a former male becoming a female.

In certain strains of fishes of the same species males will greatly outnumber females in every brood, in other strains the reverse obtains. This has been particularly noticeable in red wagtail platies, certain strains regularly producing 80% males, others producing 80% females. In Siamese fighters the breeder is lucky if he averages one male for every six females from his spawnings. Therefore can man interfere with nature and change the sex of fishes at will?

Apiarists know that this can be done with bees. In the event of the grub which would produce the future queen bee being destroyed, any grub (which would normally develop into a worker bee) can, by being fed on 'royal jelly' (a food not normally fed to the worker grub) be made to develop into a queen bee. Does this, however, amount to sex change by hormone feeding?

What are the requirements that will enable hormone administered as food to destroy the balance between male and female hormones carried in the blood stream and bring about sex change. In the first case they must be stable and more or less insoluble in water, as otherwise they will change in their chemical nature and be useless or dissolve before the particles can be eaten. Further they must remain unaffected during their passage thorough the alimentary canal until they are actually adsorbed into the blood stream. In my opinion this is difficult. In the body these hormones pass directly from their source of manufacture into the blood stream. If it were possible to take hormone food by mouth in humans, the need to inject insulin into the blood stream of diabetics would no longer be necessary. This would seem to show that oral introduction results in change or destruction before the hormone is adsorbed into the blood stream.

Having got so far with the problem what would be the effect on the reproductive capabilities of the fish so reared? In view of the fact that in higher animals sex changes are always sterile would such interference in changing males into females and vice versa result in sterility? It seems highly probable. On the other hand what would be the effect of excess hormone where the sex of the fish and the character of the hormone are the same, i.e., male fish fed with male hormone food?

Sex change by hormone injection? - maybe; sex change by hormone feeding? - what is your opinion and the basis for saying hormone feeding really works.

#### **JOTTINGS FROM AN AQUARISTS DIARY.**

Statisticians report that the greatest consumers of jam and marmalade are aquarists. We always said it was a sticky hobby.

Press Report.— "Fish have been found living contentedly in a sulphur-lake in Cyrenaica." We have known them to exist in much worse conditions!

A lecturer's menu for tropicals: chopped liver, spinach, biscuit and Cheddar. A wag "sediment" a cut off the joint, two veg., sweet or cheese — served on a "platty".

A lady beginner repudiated the assertion that fish do not drink, owing to the fact that the water in her tank was getting less! Elementary my dear Watson!

We are inclined to treat with reserve the statement of a cold-water fan that his fish were so partial to crushed puppy biscuit that they had begun to yelp at his approach.

A protest has been sent from Malaya that they read in the British papers a report that Tigers and Niggers consort very agreeably. A case of mistaken identity.

"Mosquito larvae are exceptionally succulent". So we noticed at lunch time!

Too bad that the lady who planted her furnished aquarium with artificial flowers and tied a name-tag to the caudal of each fish was disqualified.

M.C.M.

(Mutiny That's two of us mad now! War has been declared!) Willisenalia v Mashemalia

## **A CURE FOR FIN ROT**

*by J, Perry,*

It might be of use if the following experience concerning fin rot was put on record. A recent purchase consisted of six apparently healthy young beacon fish. The long journey home must have been a bit too much for them because the following morning one of them was showing signs of fin rot in the dorsal and caudal fins. Reference to "text books" revealed very little information regarding treatment of this disease.

Having a proprietary substance which, it claimed, would do anything from making fish frisky and plants perky to getting rid of parasites and an impressive list of fish diseases among which fin rot featured prominently, even though I had not tried the substance before, I decided to use it on the infected fish, having first separated it from the others. This treatment did not arrest the condition and soon the patient was in a pretty bad way.

The other youngsters were examined again and sure enough two of them were showing signs of rot on the dorsal fin and tail. In view of the poor results obtained with the first substance it was decided to try some other form of treatment. Having heard of mercurochrome as a cure for certain fish diseases and having some I decided to try it on the two newly infected fish,

After dabbing some of the mercurochrome onto a piece of cotton wool one of the infected fish was removed in an ordinary muslin net. Folding part of the net "over its head to stop it from jumping plenty of mercurochrome was dabbed on the infected fins, the fish being held in the net for a few seconds to allow the treatment to soak in before putting the fish back in the aquarium.

The second fish was treated in a similar manner. By the evening the original patient had given up the ghost, but the other two seemed none the worse and the rot seemed to have halted. The following morning one of them had a peculiar fluffy line round its tail not far from the base.

Treatment was continued, the tail finally breaking off along this line leaving only a stump. As continued treatment produced loss of appetite, though the rot was halted, the treatment was discontinued. The following day the fish regained their appetite and within a week they were growing new fins and are now none the worse for their experience.

(Editors note. This was written by John Perry while on service with the R.A.F., in response to my appeal for copy. Thank you John)

**OLD TALES RE-TALED.**

Our 'Orace, our Hon. Sec. more money than sense,  
Purchased a cup costing hundreds of pence,  
A trophy for members who wished to compete  
for the tank in their home, so pretty and neat.  
For two years some strove and produced of their best,  
Success was not their 's; P. Blomfield's been blessed  
Too long with the Cup; this - year they'll be parted -  
He's acting as Judge - YOUR chance has now started!

**G. G. W.**

**FIRST AID FOR FISHES.**

by P. Sullivan.

Remedy for deep bruising. Deep bruising, which sinks into the tissues and muscle is fatal. Immerse fish in a solution of aluminium sulphate (1 oz. to 1 Gall.) for 3 - 5 minutes and return to a warm tank ( temp. 78" to 60 degrees Fahr.) Injured eyes. Hold fish gently in a wet cloth and using a small pipette drop a 10% solution of Soda Bicarb. on the eye. Treatment must be continued for three days in succession. A 10% solution can be made by dissolving two teaspoons of Soda Bicarb in a gallon of water.

Pop-eyes, or gas bubble disease can be treated by holding the fish in a wet cloth (place cloth around gills) and piercing bubbles with a sterilized needle. A milder, and an older remedy, is to transfer the fish to a tank with an higher nitrogen content in the water; a tank of old water with decaying vegetation and fish refuse is ideal,

Ulcers and Tail Rot. Paint affected parts with a strong salt solution ( 1 part salt, 30 parts water). Tail will be red streaked before "dropping off" the new tail will then start growing ,

Should your fishes appear listless and refuse to eat, or stand on their heads on the bottom of the tank, they may have indigestion or constipation. It is a good thing to add weekly a few grains of Epsom salts in their food. Chopped earth worm is a good purgative. Goldfish or large tropicals can have Castor oil dropped into their mouths from a small pipette.

*WITHOUT APOLOGY.*

The following was suggested, by a verse written by Emerson, which goes as under :-

"Some of your griefs you have cured  
At the sharpest you still have survived  
But what torments of pain you endured  
From evils that never arrived."  
"THE STING IS IN THE TAIL"

Your tank was a mass of white spot  
That failed to respond to known cures,  
Fishes off feed; you dumped  
in a shot of "Guinness" obtained from the brewer.  
They survived!

The plants in your beautiful tank  
Were covered in algae and slime,  
Chemical remedies broke the bank  
Their remains are no longer prime.  
They expired !

At spawning you've all tried your hand,  
Fresh water, old water you tried  
In vain, you have used sterilized sand  
Then added the filth you'd despised.  
Presto! Reproduction,

Some of your experiments cured  
From others they haven't survived,  
Putting pen to paper you're adjured  
Such copy has never arrived  
For our publication.

G.G.Willis

*SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.*

MONTHLY JOURNAL,  
Vol.6 No,5. . May 1953

The society meets at 7.45 pm, on the First and. Third Tuesday in each month at :-  
THE LIBERAL HALL, Clarence Road Southend-on-Sea.

**EDITORIAL,**

Dear Readers,

Very shortly we shall hear our Gracious Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth the Second, dedicate her life to the service of our country confirming the vow she made in her broadcast last Christmas.

We, in our humble way, can dedicate ourselves to the furthering of our hobby. Never in the history of our hobby has it been so forcibly brought home how dependent we are for the majority of our pets upon imports. Even the commonest of the tropical fish are in short supply. This seems to me to be a reflection upon we aquarists for we should be able to satisfy the demands for the mere easilybred egg-layers- and certainly the livebearers - yet apparently we can't!

These of us who are choosy in. our purchases, particularly of livebearers will also have noticed how difficult it is - I might almost say impossible to obtain really good specimens, not only for size but also for colour. This seems to be a further reflection on us, in that, having been able to purchase good fish in the past we are failing in the ideals of our hobby which is to produce bigger and better fishes.

In pre-war days fish approaching the standards laid down by the Federation of British Aquatic Societies were not the rarity that they are now-a-days. It is therefore up to us all to do what we can to end this sorry state of affairs. We can only achieve this by diligence and perseverance. So let's go to it with a will and see what, even if only for our personal satisfaction, we can do to improve the quality of our fishes and arrest the downward trend that our hobby has taken. It's up to us all . Don't however think that it can be achieved in a matter of a few months, it took years to perfect some of our fishes.

Yours sincerely,

*THE EDITOR.*

### *CLUB NEWS*

Those who attended the meeting on April 21st. heard a very informative talk by Mr. Russell-Holland, a member of Enterprise A. S. Having heard him we can now appreciate why the combination of he, his wife and Mrs. Meadows form such a formidable team in the Furnished. Aquaria Class at Open Shows. However Mr Russell-Holland devoted the major part of his talk to the breeding of those fascinating creatures, the Catfishes, so often called the only fish that can wink. This is not strictly true, the fish can orbit the eye within the socket creating the illusion of winking.

From personal experience Mr. Russell-Holland considers it preferable to purchase six or more youngsters to grow on than to purchase a guaranteed pair. In this way you are more likely to obtain a harmonious pair, for, like the Cichlids, they prefer to select their own mate. The fish which are more active during the half light and night time tend to run together in pairs when approaching breeding condition and develop a pinkish tinge on the belly. An additional sign is that the ventral fins of the female appear cupped. The male also hovers above his selected female.

The breeding tank should not be less than 30" long and should be in a shaded position. A very fine sand, similar to silver sand, should be used to anchor such broad leaved plants as Cryptocorynes and Giant Saggitaria on which the fish can deposit the eggs. They will then in all probability use the glass side added Mr. Russell-Holland. Scrupulous cleanliness is not so essential as for most egglayers. Tap water 6" to 7" deep around 80 F. When the fish appear in tip-top condition adjust the thermostat to allow the temperature to drop and remain around 70 F. This drop in temperature encourages spawning. Silence during spawning is essential as the fish once disturbed do not resume spawning.

It is difficult to say with certainty how the eggs' are fertilised - there is a theory that the female extracts the milt from the male, carries it in her mouth and then sprays the eggs. He could not from his experience confirm, this, the male does hover over the female during spawning. In his experience the female extrudes 4 eggs at a time which she clasps in her ventral fins and then deposits on the selected site, A good spawning may consist of between 500 to 700 eggs, but be content with 200 to 300 owing to space requirements later on,

Having spawned the parents should be removed and the temperature again raised to 80 degree F. The water level should be reduced so that it just covers the top most eggs. The eggs hatch in four to seven days and are so tough that they are invulnerable to the ravages of snails. The development of the embryos can be clearly seen, the egg cases being transparent. The baby fish eventually bursts its way out of the case and resembles a tadpole, in that while being quite dark it seems to be all head. The egg cases finally dissolve

after a further period of 14 days giving some idea of how tough they are!

The fry should not be fed Infusoria but should be started on pulverised tubifex, it must be so fine as to be a liquid. Finely powdered dried foods, hard boiled egg yolk and micro may be used later. Feed three times a day being careful to provide just enough but not too much, otherwise putrefaction will set in. The reason for using fine sand is to prevent fry from being crushed in their search for food particles in the crevices. At about the third or fourth week the gill plates begin to stand out, this is the beginning of the growth of the armor. At about this age the fish will start coming to the surface for a breath of fresh air. By 6 weeks they will appear typical cats and will certainly need spreading around a number of tanks.

After the interval Mr. Russell-Holland gave us some tips about setting up the furnished aquarium. Plants must be in prime condition and as they must have been in your possession for at least 28 days it is no use buying them specifically to the show as after about this time, due to the move, they don't look so good as when they were purchased. It is better to plant deep and then raise them to their correct growing positions, Do not put the best plants in the obvious position (where they will catch the judges eye) rather let them create the impression that all plants are good and let the specials appear unostentatiously. Unusual plants should not be so placed that they draw attention to themselves, let them blend with the general picture. Plants should present their most favourable aspect both as to harmony with the lay out and their individual appearance. All sand, etc., should be washed and washed and then washed again.

A 24"x12"x12" tank requires very nearly, a two gallon pail of sand. Rocks should be so adjusted as to present their best aspect and should be inserted after the sand pattern has been made. Having set up the tank. net out all pieces of root, etc. ,floating in the water, then drain the tank to within 1" of the bottom and refill.

When adding the fish be sure that they have been brought in clean water so that the clarity of the tank is not impaired. Never bring plants in wet paper, always have them in water. Fish used should, not, by nature, be retiring as otherwise the best picture will not confront the judge. In Mr. Russell-Holland's opinion care at all stages should be your watchword.

A very hearty vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Russell-Holland and for a first class talk. Our thanks also to Mesdames Keeling and Carter for the cuppa and wads.

### **The Twenty Questions**

held on May 5th was poorly attended but those who attended had many good laughs. The best appears later in this Journal ! Our thanks to our President for keeping the quizzers on the right lines , also to the ladies', Mrs. Giles and Harris for the eats and drinks.

*ADVICE WAS SOUGHT, or, THE HAUNTING OF M. C. M.*

by I. G. Swill.

Our Honorary Adviser was nabbed at a recent meeting by a fairly new member to the aquaristic world who stated that something was radically wrong with his fishes. They had all started swimming broadside on and at the first sign of danger hid under the bookwork or dug themselves into the compost.

Our H.A. could hardly give credence to such a tale, and was invited to view the phenomenon. Sure enough, as he had been told, the fish were swimming along merrily "beam on" just as though doing a promenade in the tango! A tap on the glass caused a frantic scurry, the fish trying, as he had been told, to hide under the rocks, those unsuccessful in securing such cover immediately proceeded to burrow their way into the sand.

Our H.A. was, as in all these articles, clueless but having the honour of his exalted position at stake had to save face. He asked every relevant (and irrelevant!) question he could think of, hoping against hope that something would click. Nothing did!

He then got around to the question of feeding the he hadn't any hopes of this providing the necessary clue.

The food on which the fishes were fed was not, as far as his informant was aware, available to the general public, being a proprietary brand going under the name of "HAG" (those initials are familiar) and like our Hon. Sec's (ah! that's why they are so familiar) consisting of Bemax, dog biscuit, dried liver, dried shrimp and dried spinach all ground up, like our Hon. Sec's with the aid of his better half's mincer. At least this is what ideally it should contain but, he explained, his wife having complained to the butcher fairly recently about the rather tough nature of the meat supplied, was not persona gratia with that individual and the fish, therefore, had to imagine the additional flavour that would have been provided by the dried liver. He, himself, had been too late getting to the fishmongers to secure any shrimps so had purchased the next best thing. Something clicked!

Have you got it too? Our H.A. had, and replied that if you must feed dried crab you must expect the fish to develop idiosyncrasies akin to the raw material upon which they were being fed! (Presumably had our Hon. Sec. used dried cuttlefish the fish would all have been swimming backwards!)

**THE WISECRACK OF THE .YEAR.**

One of the questions at the Twenty Questions session was aptly described as “veg” and was duly shown to the non-competing team written in the President's fair hand on the blackboard. The President's wife misread the answer and asked “How can the Hon; Sec`s navel be veg ?” The correct spelling on the black board was of course, “The Hon; Sec`s Gavel!”

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*NOTHING "FISHY" ABOUT THIS.*

The day our gracious Queen is crowned.,  
When flags are waved and bells resound,  
And we receive our extra pound  
Of sugar — it will then be found  
That beaux bedecked and belles be gowned  
Will dance fandangos o'er the ground,  
And gallons of fine ale be downed,  
If, by that time, they can compound  
Fine ale enough to go around,  
When Queen Elizabeth Two is crowned.  
The day our gracious Queen is crowned  
The spitted oxen will be browned,  
There'll be sufficient to go round  
And platters heaped up like a mound  
Of earthworks — and one might be bound  
To throw some pieces to one's hound.  
The girls will all be gaily gowned  
In dresses new that will astound;  
The boys — their sweethearts they'll surround  
When Queen Elizabeth Two is crowned.  
The day our gracious Queen is crowned,  
The sailors from our ships renowned  
Will get shore leave and come aground,  
And to the crowds they will expound  
Ways of escaping getting drowned.  
Church clocks in steeples will be wound  
Their chimes from belfry will rebound  
And songs in plenty will abound  
In concord — all is joyful sound  
When Queen Elizabeth Two is crowned.

M.C.Mash.

**FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS'.**

There will only be ONE, repeat ONE, meeting in June due to the Coronation falling on the first

Tuesday of the month.

June 16th. Another Auction Sale. Entry forms are enclosed. Please complete and return to the Hon: Sec: not latter than June 9<sup>th</sup>

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## **Table held on Tuesday May 5th were as follows**

### **Single Tails,**

1. Mr. S. Greaves Bristol shubunkin
2. Mr. S. Greaves Bristol shubunkin
3. Mr. J. McNaughton London shubunkin
4. Mr.M.C. Mash Goldfish

### **Twin Tails.**

1. Mr. M.C. Mash Oranda
2. Mr. H.A. Giles Veiltail

Mr. C. J. Saunders, our former President, who judged the entry was pleasantly impressed by the quantity of the entries even if, according to him, we have a long way to go as regards quality. Having for so long been the lone voice crying in the wilderness for converts from our toy tropicals, to the good old colds he proceeded to explain the merits and demerits of the fish shown and left our poor Hon. Sec. in no doubt as to the demerits of his pride and joy, the veiltails he possessed.. He informed me that it was a pity that native cold water fish had had to compete with their more fancy finny friends and was certainly struck by the magnificent catfish. This fish will however come into its own at the Annual Show.

### **IMPERSONALIS**

NOTTING HILL NOT IN IT!

The bones of 23 females were dug up in the garden of a Southchurch member of S.L.A.D.A.S.. A well known pathologist certified that all the remains were those of widows. Any questions?

**CAUSTIC — OR TIME AND TIDE.**

The aquarist (?) who hit upon the brilliant idea of converting his dirty compost into nice clean stuff by emptying a packet of one of the proprietary detergents into his tank was astounded when, in a very short time, all his fish were converted into albinos and sticks of celery sprouted through the cover. He also thought it a bit strange to see livebearers building bubble-nests!

M.C.M.

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## WHAT EVERY WIFE SHOULD KNOW

by C. Grean,

(Married to a helpless husband)

Do-it-yourself electrical jobs can be fun. All you need for most of them is a screwdriver and common-sense.

Forget the screwdriver for the moment. Start with the sense. Electricity is safe - in the right hands. Play with it and you may be in trouble. So, watch how you go. Electrical shock accidents are nearly always due to amateur repairs, and only rarely to faulty wiring installed by skilled electricians,

Leave all major repairs and wiring extensions to the expert. Be content with the minor jobs, and be sure you know what you are doing. Mending fuses, for instance. That is safe enough - so long, of course, as you remember to switch off at the main first. A fuse is a safety device, a weak link in the chain which breaks before the wiring itself can break. A blown fuse shows something is wrong, usually a "shortcircuit" either between the current-carrying wires or between one of them and any metal in contact with the earth.

### WHICH I'LL TELL YOU.

Sometimes it is a sign of overloading. You can always tell this by looking at the fuse wire in the fuse carrier. If it has been blown to bits - that is a "short". If it has only parted in the middle that is due to overloading. Many people just replace the burnt out wire and carry on. That is wrong. There may be trouble again.

What to do about it? First, try to remove the cause of the trouble. Suppose the fuse goes when you plug something in. You hear a bang in the cupboard under the stairs and all the lights go out. Why? Either the gadget is faulty or or plugging it in at that moment overloaded circuit. Find out which. The Fuse is in a metal box near the meter. Switch off at the main (I do not apologize for repeating this - it is vital) and mend the fuse with right size of wire - 5 amps for lighting circuit, 15 amps for a heating circuit.

### RIGHT-HAND LOOP.

Thread the fuse wire through the hole in the porcelain carrier, making a right-hand loop at each end. Tuck the ends under the screw terminal and tighten up with a screwdriver. The wire should not be

tightly stretched in the carrier - it should be slack. Never mend a fuse with a larger wire size than normal on the grounds that the smaller size "keeps on going". That is how fires are started. A sound tip — keep a ready wired carrier near the fuse box. It saves much bad blackout temper when the lights go out! Most people have plug points for their electrical appliances. The smaller sizes ( 2 or 5 amp )

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are meant to be used. for portable lamps, radios, etc.

Power points are of the 15 amp variety, or the new 13 amp universal type with flat pins, and you can use any kind of electrical appliance with these consuming up to three units an hour (i.e. three kilowatts).

#### **GREEN? RED?**

If the appliance uses less than one unit an hour be sure your electrician fits it with-a "fused." adaptor. And. remember, adaptors which enable you to use two or more appliances or lamps from a power point must be of the "fused." type if you want to avoid trouble.

Of course, any electric appliance ought to be used from a plug point. A light fitting does not give a safe path to earth for any electricity which may get into metal casings. Suppose you connect a faulty iron with the kitchen light. Leaking current may go through you and the tiled floor which is conductive. That is the reason for the three pin point. Two pins carry the current, the third and larger pin carries away any leakage from a faulty appliance through a wire which conducts it safely to earth. That is also the reason why you have to be so careful to replace flexes exactly as you found them. The wire with the red insulation goes to the "live pin", the black wire to the neutral pin and the green insulation wire goes to the earth pin. Red for danger and green earth - that should help you to remember,

#### **THE COACH OUTING ON MAY 17th.**

The Committee regret that certain members had to be disappointed over this outing but there were insufficient bookings to enable two coaches to be run economically;. It was therefore with regret that the late-comers had to be disappointed but we hope that they will take advantage of the next opportunity by booking early. You will remember that it was announced that it would be a case of "first come first served", so get in early on the next outing.

#### **A REMINDER.**

Due to the Coronation taking place on the first Tuesday in June there will be only ONE, repeat ONE meeting held during the month, on Tuesday 16th.

**You have been warned !**

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### **ANIMAL CRACKERS**

M.C.Mash.

A rattlesnake is an ardent football fan. Plentiful at Southend Stadium.  
Wrens are attractive birds who wear sailor suites  
Lounge lizards and cheap skates belong to the same primitive order.(Genus Spiv)  
A calf is one of a pair that look attractive in nylons.  
A vulture is a sort of Chancellor,  
Polar bears are animals that pretend to have cubs — and don't,  
A most amazing animal is the turtle. It's always getting into the soup,  
The turkey is usually a tough guy that only dies just before Christmas  
The lion is the king of beasts. If you meet one in the dark — crown him!  
A stork is the producer of margarine and babies,  
The motor mechanic who breeds only spanner barbs and yellow-hammers must be nuts l  
Secretary birds are **SO** tame they will sit on any man's knee.  
Man`s best friend is the dog. That's why over 10,000 are bitten every year,  
The soldier ants of the tropics are very war-like but marvellously  
disciplined. They march in columns, stand at ease and mount guard.  
The rumour that a couple of strays had been found with late night passes  
must be taken with a grain of salt.

### **OLD TALES RE-TALED**

To furnish incentive, desire to compete,  
The Flamboro Cup was presented,  
For the fish that has warm, not cold-blooded feet,  
The best at the Show represented.  
For two years at least, we`ve striven in vain,  
To depose its present possessor,  
I hope that this year changes obtain  
Or that Angel to Heaven I'll send`er!

**A MONEYSAVER.**

It is possible that new members are unaware that certain of our local dealers offer discount on equipment, lights, etc., purchased by club members. It is obviously impolite to enumerate these dealers-who make this concession to our members so enquiries should be made when purchases are made. It may be advisable to have in your possession your membership card to confirm your entitlement to discount.

**THE MONTHLY QUIZ.**

In the absence of any answers this has been discontinued, Those who were unable to solve the anagrams will have to continue solving them to find out what the answers are,

**WILLISENALIA.**

Your Zebra may be chosen for fine the jay-walkers tests. (D. Express article) Mr. Russell-Holland mentioned fish-training: now it looks like we have to teach them to read the Highway Code

A report says that the Dudley Zoo is losing fish from the aquarium, which is housed in a cellar, after the Zoo is closed for the night. Ghostly beings are suspected. Ghost larvae getting their own back?

The U. S. Navy has discovered a new fish that, when dried, will burn like a candle. (Sunday Pictorial) Our Beacons always burn the midnight oil at both ends!

The U. S. Navy has also discovered a fish that swims upside-down and backward, (Sunday Pictorial) Somebody been feeding an upside-down Catfish with cuttlefish?

*Lebistes tetrazona*, a new fish is divided into head, body, tail and fins. Mark Mash has gone one better and evolved a modification his has a neck !

A recent best seller has the title "Two Eggs on my-Plate". If that's all the spawning consisted of I'd sell'er too!

Look out for the man with cuts. (Evening Star headline) Those clip in razor blade scrapers can be the very devil.

Bachelors are taxed in Hungary -. Pre-entry fee for the Breeders Class?

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### ODDS AND ENDS

by G. Willis

Many a time when I have bought young egg-layers, where even in the adults sexual differentiation is a difficulty I have been able to ascertain whether I possess a pair or not by the simple expedient of putting them in with a male perma black while serving their period of isolation, I have noticed that the Mollie will chase any female but ignore any that when fully, grown can be confirmed as males. (I have not tried this with young Angels but it has worked with many species)

Frequently when two young egg-layers are purchased they will, while undergoing isolation, spar up to each other or spend a large part of their period of isolation chasing each other in tight circles, head to tail. This is not a sign that they are a pair, in fact you can safely say that they are two males.

A number of plants can be propagated by layering -as is done with such plants as carnations. Hygrophilla and Bacopa are two that readily; come to mind. Possibly, Ambullia and Cabomba would also respond to such treatment but a rooted plant should be used as otherwise these plants have a tendency to rot away. Just cover the stem with the compost leaving the growing part of the stem above the compost. Now shoots will appear from nearly every leaf base of the original plant. Hygrophilla can also be propagated from a leaf. The leaf should be carefully; stripped from a stalk and left floating in the tank. Provided that it goes not start to rot a new shoot and roots will form at the base of the leaf,

Quite by accident I discovered a way of propagating the Four Leaf Clover which grows very slowly in my tanks. Like Hair grass it can be grown as a marginal. A shallow dish with half an inch of water covering the compost in a sunny position is all that is required.

Young Mollies thrive on the green slime algae growing on rocks gathered from the foreshore. As they also appreciate brackish water there is no need to wash the rocks before placing them in your tanks. The rocks can be replaced. regularly - but don't take them from the sea-wall. The young fish will do better at temperatures around 85 than 75.

While all of us have used dried shrimp as a food how many of us have saved the eggs

from the inedible remains-and given -those to the fish? They are greatly relished by egg-layers and livebearers. Rub the eggs off the legs in a saucer of water, drain off excess water and drop the rest into your tank.

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### **BREEDERS CLASS.**

The following registrations have been received for the Breeders Class event in our Annual Show:--

W. J. Donges Rosy Barbs born 25/2/53  
R. Du Boisson Black widows born 14/4/53  
R. Du Boisson Beacons born 19/3/53  
Mrs K Outing Black widows born 20/4/53  
Mr A.A. Hunter Dwarf Gourami born 21/4/53  
Mr I Cotgrove Leeri gourami born 21/4/53  
Mrs K Outing Nannacara taenae born 29/10/52  
Mr D.E.Connor M. velifera born 12/4/53

### **NEW TROPHIES FOR THE ANNUAL SHOW.**

In deference to the wishes of Mr. M. Barnes -Oake, who requested that the Barnes-Oake Cup should be awarded for the best brood of six egg-layers in the Breeders Class, the Coronation Cup will be awarded for the best brood of six live bearers exhibited at our Annual Show.

Mr. C.J. Saunders has very kindly presented another cup bearing his name which will be awarded to the Runner-up Any Variety Coldwater Fish at the Annual Show.

Mr. C.J. Brooks, who presented the shield bearing his name for the best Furnished Aquarium, has very generously' presented yet another shield to be awarded to the competitor adjudged to have obtained the next highest points for a Furnished Aquarium.

The following letter has been received regarding the visit by certain members of our Club to the Chelmsford A.S. (see April Journal page 39)'

The Editor,

I read with interest and amazement that the lack of wives at the Chelmsford Club is due, probably,

to the absence of glamorous blondes. Surely: Mr. Giles is not suggesting that the S.L.A.D.A.S. members wives attend only to keep an eye on their husbands!! If this is so it would be a good idea if the members remembered., as the Chelmsford members do that it is first and foremost a Fish Club.

(Signed) R.J.G Outing.

## **SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND .DISTRICT. AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

MONTHLY JOURNAL,

Vol. 6 No.6 June, 1953.

The society meets at 7.45 pm, on the First and Third Tuesday in each month at:-  
THE LIBERAL HALL, Clarence Road, Southend-on-Sea.

### **EDITORIAL**

Dear Readers,

One of the major events of 1953 is now a thing of the past, another major event, as far as our Club *is* concerned, looms large on the horizon – I refer of course to our Annual Show.

By the time you read this there will be only a matter of some six weeks before we're on show and on trial. In the past, I think you will agree, *we* have given the public, who after all comprise the majority of those viewing our exhibition, value for their money. In view of the fact that this Coronation Year, lets ALL do our best to make our Annual Show of 1953 a show to really write home about,

While your committee are doing all in their power to ensure that it will be our best ever, we are only human and shall require assistance from you, the members, so give us the support we need to enable your hopes and desires to become reality.

The public are subsidising you, so help to make it a show the public will enjoy. Even at the expense of reducing the number of individual entries! I ask you ALL to have a "bash" at entering a Furnished Aquarium as this is the feature of the show that provides the most. interest from the public's point of view. After all it is the profits from the Annual Show that enable us to keep the subscription at its present low level.

Don't be afraid of showing your bushel (of sand, etc.,) under a light - to reverse the old proverb - so start planning a real "humdinger" of a tank and see if we can outdo last year's

record entry,

Yours, definitely entering,

The Editor.

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### CLUB NEWS

The regulars - one of these days that word will be replaced by "-the Club" - as usual turned up on the evening of May 19th to have a general discussion on the subject of "Breeding Fishes". The first point that was mentioned was that before one can do any breeding the fish to be spawned MUST be a pair! Elementary my dear Reader!

After discussion at times prolonged with arguments being bandied from left and right the general consensus of opinion appeared to be that to accomplish breeding and to do so successfully the following were the salient points

- 1, Fish must be conditioned
2. It is useless to use old fish, the urge to spawn seems to diminish with anno domini
3. External stimuli play a great part in inducing the fish to spawn, ie a rise or fall in temperature more or less intense lighting, change of water.
- 4 Cleanliness of equipment if you are to rear the fry successfully.
5. Obtain the nearest approach to the natural conditions under which the species reproduce in their normal habitat,
- 6 (And most important!) Patience on the part of the breeder!

There is of course nothing to report on the meeting June 2nd, for obvious reasons there was no meeting!

The following report has been furnished by M.C.M. On the first "**Outing of the Year**" The expedition to Ewhurst, Surrey was somewhat delayed owing to one or two stragglers failing to clock-in at the appointed time. The weather was doubtful .and a few heavy showers .gave promise of a sticky wicket but at no time did our umpire `Orace contemplate abandonment. Instead we settled down in our Dunlop seats and hoped for better things. Many of the usual barrow-boys turned up with their usual donahs and all in all it was very successful trip.

Visibility was rather hampered by the length of the coach, which should have been hinged in the middle to enable it to round corners. However we managed to get through with about a dozen broken kerb stones and a few near misses. Billy Hoare, in the back row, was rather concerned at having to walk a mile to the front door at each emergency stop and said that by the time he had got back to his seat he was thirsty again!

The coffee houses at Gants Hill do not cater for Sunday morning travelers, maybe they attend Holy Communion, so we had perforce to lick our parched lips until we arrived at Charing Cross, where there was a general stampede to the nearest cafe. Journeying along the picturesque (?) Embankment we passed through even more (?) picturesque Battersea, Fulham and Chelsea, passed over Putney Bridge into the wilds of Surrey. Here we ran into heavy showers and a few of our numbers regretted not having redeemed their rain coats.

Round about 1 o'clock some of the starvation gang, began to feel a bit peckish and we started to look around for a suitable parking place, embellished with the usual offices. A plot of grass at Otford, right outside the old-fashioned inn filled the bill; there was a general rustling of paper bags and the smells of smoked salmon and chicken sandwiches wafted gently across the grasslands.

Needless to say the inn did a roaring trade and invitations for a return visit were handed around by mine host. One or two lingerers were most reluctant to leave the cheery atmosphere of the bar parlour, but we eventually proceeded on our Journey to Ewhurst, a few miles distant, and arrived about 2.30 p.m. After Mr. McInerney, the proprietor of the fish establishment we were making for, had been warned by phone that we were getting dangerously near, the coach backed into the narrow drive and we disembarked. We were marshalled 2-deep at the entrance and given our orders for the day, which instructed us to pass down the car to allow the rear ranks an opportunity of squeezing into the small but very compact fish house. Most of us were impressed by the quality of the fish, and a wonderful marine aquarium came in for a great deal of admiration - it certainly earned the approbation handed out as did some of the fish that were strange to most of us. Purchases were made and quantities of lira and drachma changed hands. Mr. Carter had an all-in wrestling match with a huge Angel that he was trying to squeeze, into a jam jar;

he succeeded in the end with the aid of a fork handle and a shoe-horn.

Whilst the fish were being sorted out we adjourned to the village hall where an elastic tea had been laid on especially for us, and which, in spite of visions of chewing gum and elastic bands turned out to be a swell affair. with real jam and French pastries, plus the attention of a couple of charming fillies. The Hon. Sec, had his seat near the door and gathered in the conscience money that might otherwise not have materialized.

After picking up our bargains we embarked for home, and the evening sunset in such beautiful surroundings made us contemplate on the evils of our past lives. Once more we were stung by the organiser by his notable parlour game "number on the wheel" and when we reached our next halt a quick whip round was made in aid of the thirsty, who adjourned to the "Valentine". A short sighted member put his glass on the one of the two bars that wasn't there, but fortunately he had drained it first.

This concluded what we all voted was an outing of our usual high standard, and there is little doubt that a repeat performance will be demanded in the future. Horace must be congratulated on a good job well done, all we can say is "let him do it again thou true and noble servant".

Mr. P. Soffiatti, our Social Secretary has resigned from the Committee as business precludes him from attending meetings or from performing his duties. His task has been added to the numerous tasks already undertaken by our Hon. Sec and by our Hon. Adviser,

#### **FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS.**

**JULY 7th.** The Annual Show talk. This is the meeting at which EVERYONE should be present. You will learn what we are going to do and what the Committee hope YOU are going to volunteer to do, which is of even greater importance if we are to put on a really smashing show. So make a note of the date JULY 21st and be sure that you put in an attendance. The show depends on you all, repeat ALL.

**July 21st** A visiting lecturer.

**ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF M.C.M.**

by I. G. Swill.

A letter recently received by our H. A. caused him to don his thinking cap. The letter explained that the writer had just acquired his first tropical aquarium and having spent a small fortune on fishes, plants, etc., was rather perturbed that his living picture had assumed a rather Picasso-esque effect. His glorious Cryptocorynes, Vallisneria and Amazon Swords were now but remnants of their former selves while quite a number of the fish were exhibiting wounds.

Our H.A. replied that without seeing the tank he was unable to account definitely for the plants being so bedraggled and thought that a possible explanation of the wounds might be the inclusion of a sharp-edged rock for decorative purposes. He also asked for a list of the fish to see if this might provide a clue.

He duly received a reply stating that no sharp-edged rock was used — only water worn sand stone, while the fishes comprised a selection of the more common live bearers such as *Mollienisia sphenops*, *Lebistes reticulatus*, *Xiphophorus hellerii* and *Heterandria formosa* with a few of the smaller egg-layers such as *Brachydanio rerio*, *Barbus gelius*, *Hyphessobrycon innessi*, *Rasbora heteromorpha* and *Carnegiella strigata*. Our H.A. spent the rest of the day identifying them!

Our H.A. gave as his verdict that if he must have *Xiphophorus hellerii* and *Carnegiella strigata* they must not be provided with a hone on which to sharpen their swords and hatchets!

Older members will be interested to know that Mr and Mrs Latreille, who departed these shores for the more equable climate of Australia are thoroughly enjoying life down under. Contrary to general belief the main sport there is NOT cricket but dodging the road hogs!

Our Hon. Treas had great doubts on the veracity of the statement and repeated sayings of lecturers and other members that Daphnia are to be found in ponds. Having spent pounds on fares in search of these elusive creatures for the cost of a few pence he has now joined the ranks of the believers! His young Leeri gouramies have repaid his outlay as they no longer have to be content with a monotonous diet of chopped up whiteworms.

### PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF,

by G.G. Willis.

Those who keep coldwater fish are aware of the old wives tale attaching to the Tench, which earned it the name of the doctor fish. We regard fish as having a very limited mental capacity, yet the following instance may serve to show that the superior intelligence of man cannot compete with nature when it comes to dealing with fish disorders.

I purchased, towards the end of last year, two young golden swordtail Characins, as luck would have it they turned out to be a pair. They grew well and were earmarked to appear in my furnished aquarium at the Annual Show.

About three weeks ago I noticed that the male was anything but happy - his better half was wearing the trousers, which up till then he had worn. He was off his food and appeared to have slight swimbladder trouble which up till then had not been apparent. This complaint had not been brought about by a change of water or by sudden chilling he was the only affected fish in the tank. For a week he was completely off his food and, by comparison with his former self, emaciated.

No matter what food was supplied he refused to eat. He might partake of it but immediately would spit it out. About this time I noticed a silvery bubble protruding from the vent. This must have been either a portion of the swim bladder or of the intestine distended with gas or air. I include air as throughout the period the fish had been swimming with laboured movement near the surface, in a nose up position as though oxygen deficiency was the trouble. The tissue-enclosed bubble was the size of the lead shot used by anglers.

My wife, in view of his very unhappy appearance, asked me to destroy him and I must admit I was in sympathy with her but, because of the difficulty I knew I would experience in getting a replacement, did not carry out the request. Maybe it was just my perverse nature manifesting itself! For the next four days the fish was observed to take one or two white worms at feeding time but invariably, within a short time of eating, this bubble -enclosed in body tissue would protrude from the vent.

For the next ten days he was right off food not even sampling it. Throughout this time however, though he grew more and more emaciated, the re-appearance of any part of his anatomy through the vent was not observed.

Whether it was a rupture of the walls of the abdominal cavity permitting the swim bladder to protrude through the vent or whether the complaint was caused by a

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blockage of the lower portion of the alimentary canal I shall, I `m afraid, never know as his self-enforced starvation has had its effect. I do not propose to indulge in vivisection on a now fully recovered fish!

#### **BREEDERS CLASS ENTRIES.**

The following entries for the above Class have been duly registered:-

Mr W.Hoare Fighters born 13/5/53  
Mr W.Hoare Dwarf Gourami born 3/5/53  
Mr W.Hoare Midnight mollies born 3/5/53  
Mr Duboisson Widows born 18/5/53  
Mr. Duboisson N. taenia born 20/5/53  
Mr. J. Layzell Angels born 26/4/53  
Mr. J. Layzell Tiger barbs born 23/5/53  
Mr. J. Layzell B. schuberti born 22/5/53  
Mr D. Toon Zebra born 2/6/53

If there were other registrations made at the last meeting for which the appropriate entry has not been recorded I apologise — I was definitely under the weather.

If there are any further entries as yet unrecorded they should be entered on the enclosed Annual Show entry form but in such cases the entry fee should be included with your fee for other entries. Do not fail to show ALL your entries, including those for the Breeders Class on your entry form and be sure to return the form (and unnecessary to say the "lolly") to-Mr. P. Blomfield by Saturday July 11th. Entry forms received after this date will be too late as the programme will then be in the hands of the printer.

## **A TRUE STORY FROM AMERICA.**

The Editor of the Orange County Aquarium Society was admiring a brood of Golden Guppies when a young girl neighbour asked her if they were guppy babies. On being told that they were and all from a single guppy, she asked after a short pause, "How many do you think she would have had were she married?"

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## **THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY. OF GOLDFISH.**

by M. C. Mash.

I'm a goldfish - I can imagine you saying "So what? There are many thousands of goldfish". Well, I'm about to tell you the sad story of my life . It began nearly three years ago in the village near Bari, in Southern Italy. We, my brothers, sisters and myself (a frisky young male), were a large family — some two to three thousand "— and although on the-whole fairly contented with our living quarters ( a concrete container dug in the earth), we were often hungry.

When I was about two months old many of the sickly members of the family were taken from us. This happened after many of the weaker fry had died. It gave us, the more robust and rapidly-growing youngsters, a larger share of the food that was thrown into the pond once a day, which consisted mainly of peameal and crushed dog biscuit. At times I was ravenous and would swallow pieces of green stuff that hung on the walls of the home in which I lived.

At five months about 50 of us stronger fish were transferred to another out-door pond that gave us more freedom of movement, and although I missed the remainder of the family they were soon forgotten in the excitement of having new quarters.

In a few weeks we were netted and transferred to a metal containers which were clamped down and shipped on board an aeroplane for a foreign destination. I shall never forget the suffocating experience, which lasted altogether about 50 hours. Many of my brothers and sisters expired on the way and the remainder of us were in a very poor state by the time the lid was removed and we were tipped into glass tanks of cool saltish water.

I was sick for at least two days, by which time some one had again transferred us to another container and we were loaded onto a lorry for distribution to various dealers. '

My temporary home was a shop where customers came and stared at us while passing rude remarks. It was at this time that I learned that I was in England, for which the saints be praised. The food was at first strange to us -- some cotton-like stuff called tubifex (supposed to be alive) and a few small earthworms now and again. This was the first live food I'd ever had and it made my tummy feel strange until I was used to it. I subsequently looked eagerly forward to this food and much preferred it to the dried biscuit that was our alternative,

A few days after arrival a most cruel thing happened, I was placed in a small globe-like bowl with three other sufferers and exhibited in the shop window, where the hot sun almost boiled us alive. Luckily, a man selected me for his pond, to which I was in due course transferred. This happened a year or two ago, and during that time I have been exhibited at various shows. These are the days I hate most, for we, the other occupants of the pond and myself, are chased by an implement called a net round and round the pond until captured. We are next dumped in a glass aquarium decorated with labels denoting our lineage. Sometimes, for instance, at the 'Sladas' shows we are given aeration, and we rather enjoy ourselves on these occasions as we can always be sure of some specially selected food and a little admiration.

I have lately been married to a choice female goldfish and we await our first family with apprehensive anticipation.

We, the goldfish fraternity, would like to thank all the kind members of the Goldfish Society and others who are continually looking after our interests, whilst condemning the mass persecution and cruel assassination that goes on in the concentration grounds.

Yours swimmingly, but not so young

G. Oldfish.

#### OLD TALES RE—TALED.

Each Annual Show meeting produces head-aches,  
To sort out our problems, each answer time takes,  
Some matters are fleeting, the venue and date  
Are both predetermined before the debate.  
From chaos to order we progress by degrees,  
The meeting's adjourning, we'd thoughts of our teas,  
When one member arose to air his sore point,  
Re showing the Guppy — as single or joint?

G.G.W.

(Members will observe that this problem has already been solved for them at this year's Show – the entry form states that ALL fish with the exception of Fighters and Cichlids will be shown in PAIRS).

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### A NEW SOURCE OF REVENUE

by G.G. Willis.

Some of us profit from our hobby by selling the results of our labours to the dealers, others bury their losses! Yet a minority make a smaller return by using the auctions for disposal purposes. I have a further source of income from my labours.

Algae, that unicellular floating plant often appearing in our tanks, much to our annoyance, reproduce by cell division. It has been realised by scientists for some time that algae have a high food value, though they have taken long enough to wake up to this fact — our young fry particularly have been aware of this fact for countless generations.

Like ordinary plants they derive their nutriment from simple chemicals which they obtain from the water and the air and under the influence of sunlight build them up into complex substances of which their cells are composed.

This process is known as photosynthesis. The complex body tissues that are formed by this process are called proteins. Protein forms a considerable, and essential, part of our diet. No! do not run away with the idea that I am going to advocate the consumption of algae by human beings; only the Chinese seem to relish such a dish and then it is well camouflaged before being served as Birds Nest Soup.

So far algae cultivation has been difficult to develop due to the relatively high cost of supplying the necessary nutrients. It has now been discovered that animal waste products contain all the necessary chemicals for their successful propagation, so from now on I'm going to overcrowd and overfeed my fishes to-ensure a continuous supply of the necessary to ensure a heavy crop of the cursed stuff. Algae, which may contain as much as fifty percent dried weight of protein, can, in sufficient quantities, form a valuable source of animal fodder so releasing land for human crop cultivation.

Psstt! Want any algae cheap for your tanks? There's a fortune in it! Get in early on the latest money racket and you will never regret that you can no longer see your fish, filthy lucre is a better sight!

P.S., (Written a fortnight after the above) Anybody want a stinking tank full of dead fish ?

P.P.S. Regret NO algae for sale — it was killed off by the P.S,

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— by ???????????

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR  
YOUR CONTRIBUTION ARTICLE  
POEM OR ANYTHING YOU CAN  
WRITE.

### **BLANK (VERY BLANK) VERSE**

Readers will observe that this issue of the Journal has been written by two contributors only -thank you Mark for your support. It is NOT, due to the fact that other contributions have been withheld from publication -- they are non-existent.

It is noted, however, during the tea interval and not infrequently during the actual meeting that members have plenty to TALK about; might they not WRITE about it instead?

The Journal has been in existence now for over six years and is the CLUB — it provides those unable to attend meetings with the knowledge of what took place so that even in absentia they are in the picture, it has its matters of serious import and a leavening of articles in the lighter vein. It would be a serious blow if it has to be discontinued due to lack of support from you, the Club members,

One article a year from each member would ensure that the willing horse — if Mark Mash doesn't object to being so called — would not have to worry himself almost bald trying to think of something to write about and it would certainly make the life of whoever is Editor a lot easier.

Surely it isn't asking an awful lot from you to put pen to paper once a year. What matter if your literary style does not compare with any of the writers of the classics? It matters not if your poetic licence stretches a long way beyond what can normally be called liberty! Send it along — it is the task of the Editor to lick it into shape if necessary. Maybe you haven't access to a typewriter; send it along in manuscript and in all probability it can be deciphered BUT whatever you do SEND IT ALONG.

It is up to YOU to see that the Journal rolls off the press, so -let's be hearing from you and pretty pronto.

The Editor

(In all seriousness the above is not a catch, it is, unfortunately the plain unvarnished truth when I say that copy for future issues is non-existent)

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

MONTHLY JOURNAL. Vol.6 No,7.                      July. 1953.

The society meets at 7.45p.m. on the First and. Third Tuesday in each month at:-

THE LIBERAL HALL, Clarence Road,  
Southend-on-Sea.

**EDITORIAL**

.Dear Toilers-to-Be,

How many of us at some time or another have not heard the dulcet tones of our better half, present or future, enjoining us to "Tighten such and such for me darling", "The iron flex needs renewing, sweetheart", "Please dear, move that for me", " BE an angel and clean the windows", or the less dulcet tones of "It's your turn to do the washing up, you rat" All such tasks we are able to perform. Those self-same tasks are involved in the preparation of our annual "piece de resistance".

So, whether you can spare an hour, two hours or are a person of leisure and time is your own, roll up and help make the show the success we know it will be. Experience has shown that the time before the show is all too short; a little extra help from all would go a long way to alleviating the toils of that small band who, every year about this time, wish they had four hands and bodies that could do without sleep while performing heroic feats to get the show ready in time. It's not a case of "too many cooks spoiling the broth" it's "many hands make light work". It should also be remembered that help after the show has run its course is equally important as we have to have the show dismantled by mid-day on the following Wednesday.

William Hazlitt wrote that Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps; for he is the only

animal that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be. So roll up and don't let the few do all the work, Remember it is YOUR show.

Your toiler at the typewriter,

The Editor.

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#### CLUB NEWS.

Once again the task of your Editor is made easy -or is it? - in that he has vary little to write about. The Auction Sale held on June 16th was not so well attended as it might have been, the prices realised ware, as usual, not so high as they could have been, the fish were however up to the high standard that has been set in the past. In the absence of our 'Orace the gavel was ably wielded by no less a person than our worthy President, the cash was examined by our Treasurer - he afterwards admitted that a visit to his dentist was necessary as an amalgam stopping was dislodged through testing the silver with his incisors -while the lots were visibly displayed by Messrs Green and Mash who as a result of their training .are now thinking of entering for the "Mr. Universe" competition!

For the Annual Show meeting held on July 7th the Hall was full and "House Full" notices were displayed. It was obvious that because everybody was aware that this was the meeting at which volunteers were called for to help put on the show everybody had decided to go on holiday — OR HAD THEY? Thank you, the whole twenty-two of you who had the interests of the Club sufficiently at heart to turn up and volunteer to do your stuff. Now let me hear complaints after the show and a piece of my mind will be delivered. Personally, those on holiday exempted,it was a very poor show.

Once again the day has been saved by the ubiquitous Mark who has come; to my rescue with a report on "The Woburn Wanderings". This is what he has to say.

As most of the brass-hats were on holiday or otherwise engaged, the party bound for the Duke of Bedford's estate at Woburn was put in charge of an acting unpaid supernumerary and supercilious lance bombardier, who did his best to cope with the madding crowd requiring seats in the coach (only 25 of the 39 taken). However, those who missed this outing should regret it till their dying day, or at any rate until they can rectify their error by booking up very early for the next trip there,

It was a balmy morning when the magnificent coach and occupants left the vicinity of Southend. Only two of the latter had to be dragged from their boudoir, but they managed O.K. by finishing their toilet and bread-and-marmalade breakfast in the coach,

The driver was one of those obliging coves who scented a, substantial tip and did his best to deserve it by

taking us through the unequalled country of Essex and thence through the outskirts of Middlesex and Herts, so on to Bedfordshire, We regaled ourselves on buns and coffee at Enfield, having worked up a healthy appetite in the early morning country air (there's some nice pig-sties around Dunmow way).

The route from there was through Potters Bar to Whipsnade, via St. Albans, and we arrived cut side the Zoo about 1 o'clock. The party dotted themselves about the Common and opened up their nose bags -- feeding themselves and a "gaggle" of ducks who happened to be around the neighbourhood and who appreciated caviare and champagne,

After lunch we embarked once more and proceeded to Woburn via Dunstable, where we had a panoramic view from the downs of most of England (and Luton Hoo). The gliders were also doing their stuff much to the delight of the children of the party. We arrived. at the Duke's famous seat at approx. 2.45 pm. and were met at the lodge by his agent , who mounted the coach and directed the driver through the well sanded carriage ways. Passing on our left several herd of deer (12 different species in a complement of one to two thousand) , and on our right a dozen or so natural lakes, we came to a wired-in compound, and alighting from the coach were put in charge of an under-keeper who gave us an eyeful of the birds — and what an eyeful! Hundreds of brilliantly coloured "Budgies" flying loose in the trees, and coming into the aviaries to rest and nest at night. We were shown several nests of fledglings, but were denied sight of the wonderful collection of parakeets who were nesting and did not relish disturbance. The shoals of Golden Orfe in one lake and the gigantic Hygoi Carp in another -- who practically came out to shake hands with us attracted top-rate admiration, as did the pretty red and gold Chinese pagoda verging the large lake. Multitudinous birds of the pheasant and guinea fowl type and hosts of rabbits and squirrels scampered at our approach. Red-headed Geese -- valued at £100 apiece — voiced a welcome.

The Abbey is packed with priceless marble statuettes and on the terrace the unclothed fallen gladiator and muscular wrestler made some of the ladies eyes pop. Probably because they were minus their bikinis. Having had our fill of the sanctuary surrounding the Abbey we again took our seats in the coach to explore the grounds. We took in most of the 10 miles of rolling lawns, wooded copses, grotto and rhododendron clumps, the deer eyed us with dreamy limpid eyes (as deer will ) and the buffalo paused in their cud chewing to eye us disdainfully. We had great difficulty in tearing the children away from a 7 day

old bison and a 7weeks old colt — they all .wanted a bison full.

But good things have a habit of coming to an end and so we left this wonderful park vowing to return at some future date.

The journey back was interesting but uneventful. We stopped at the high-brow city of St. Albans for tea and at Rettingdon for a pick-me-up. We arrived back in Southend at about 10 p.m., and as everybody seemed satisfied with their day — well we are also satisfied in the knowledge that they were satisfied,

P. S. We hear that several members new boast a pair of antlers in their hall!

### **ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF M..C.M**

by I.G. Swill

Our Honorary Adviser reports that a friend phoned stating that while his fish appeared perfectly healthy their excreta was most unusual and had formed a white mulm over the bottom of his tank.

Our H. A. suspecting that the white deposit was not mulm but a fungal or bacterial growth from decomposing uneaten food went round to confirm his suspicions. He had, however, to admit that his preconceived ideas were wrong and that the white deposit was excreta.

After consulting all the Oracles (Water Life, The Aquarist, past volumes of the SLADAS Journal, Innes, Hervey & Hems, etc.) he had to admit he hadn't one until judicious questioning gave him a clue.

Was it the water? What do you think! Had the fish been fed on some unusual food? If so how was it that an article on this unusual food hadn't appeared in our Journal? The answer was simple.

His advice to his friend and to any other member who suffers from this phenomenon is clean out the tank and use aquarium compost and not bird sand and the fish will not try to emulate the pigeons in Trafalgar Square.

## THE. STUCK-UP EGOTIST BECOMES UNSTUCK

By M.C.Mash,

Amongst the plants, the rooks, the shingle,  
Where snails and shimmering fishes mingle,  
Some species paired- but ethers single  
(All there reposed),  
One knew his owner was a member -

Thro' January onwards to December -  
his fishes in September

Who showed  
( Or he supposed)',

Said he - who's plumage was delicious-  
When ogling others - eyes suspicious:  
And baring teeth with actions vicious  
(I'll win the shield)

But as the August show drew nearer  
The other fishes shunned the jeerer.  
They knew his dates were mixed, and queerer ,  
( T`was not revealed).

They got themselves in prime condition  
For early August - they'd a mission,  
By motives far beyond suspicion  
(Outwitting him)'

One day, without the slightest warning,  
Just as the day began its dawning,  
A net scooped him as he was yawning

(Above the brim),

The time he'd wasted a was regretted  
When fishes at the Show were vetted,  
He knew he was asleep when netted,  
(And full of fear).

The moral then, most gentle reader,  
If fish you show or you're a breeder,  
fit - for you're the feeder

Is keep them  
(Throughout the year).

### THE HOME AQUARIUM COMPETITION..

Your judges have now completed the necessary two visits, the second, unfortunately, extending beyond the original date fixed for the termination of the competition due to circumstances beyond our control,

The marks awarded are the average of all three judges over both visits and are as follows:-

Competitor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Mrs Gibbs	3	5	7	9	13	4	11	4	4	7	5	-	72
Mrs Duboisson	4	6	8	9	9	3	7	4	6	7	5	-	68
Mrs Penfold	3	4	6	7	6	4	9	3	5	6	6	-	59
Cotgrove	3	4	7	7	8	3	6	3	6	6	4	-	58
Giles	3	6	7	7	8	3	6	3	5	7	4	-	59
Mash	3	4	6	8	6	3	5	3	4	5	4	-	51
Hoare	3	4	5	7	6	2	5	3	5	3	2	-	44
Green	2	4	6	8	4	3	6	4	4	4	3	-	48
English	3	3	6	5	4	2	4	2	3	5	3	-	40

Maximum 5 8 12 10 15 5 15 5 7 8 10 100

Key Columns 1,2,3 & 4 FISH Selection, size, & quality Columns 4 & 5 PLANTS Selection & quality Columns 5, 6, & 7 DESIGN Permanency, originality and harmony Columns 8, 9, & 10 TECHNIQUE Clarity, planting & compost suitability

*We would extend our congratulations to Mrs, Gibbs and Mrs. DuBoisson who are respectively winner and second. Mrs. Penfold is the winner of the special prize awarded in the judges view of the best tank entered by a novice taking into account the length of time she ( or he) has been a member of the Club. As regards the males we have preserved their anonymity by refraining to give them their titular duel! May we hope that next year others who from shyness or other reasons did not compete this year will enter next year.*

The following constructive criticisms are offered which account for the penalties imposed, all or any of which were encountered in the same tank,

**FISH.** Mixed livebearers capable of hybridizing in the same tank; fish showing *a.* large variation in size (an extreme example would be large Angels in with guppies); young and immature fish in with adults (this is only permissible without penalty if the picture is intended to portray family life, Ma Pa and some of the kids); insufficiency of varieties or too many varieties. (Note. The judges have to regard all fish shown with the- one stated exception as adults, young fish therefore incur heavy penalties).

We are pleased to report, however, that we did not experience one instance of overcrowding.

**PLANTS.** By far the commonest fault was insufficiency of plants often of poor quality. Seven to ten varieties are recommended. Algae covered plants do not make for a pretty picture. In addition to the insufficiency of varieties there was a lack of colour tone and contrast.

**DESIGN.** This left a lot to be desired — in fact it could be said that the least thought had been given to this feature.

There is room for vast improvement especially in **ORIGINALITY.**

**TECHNIQUE.** Clarity left a lot to be desired - in fact we were often fogged up by dirty front glasses or misty water! Planting on the whole leaves room for a great deal of improvement. Roots which should not be showing were often very much in evidence and quite a few plants were incorrectly planted being either too deeply set in the compost or else just hanging on by their root tips. One tank resembled a formal landscape garden with plants of different species occurring at regular intervals

**COMPOST SUITABILITY.** Very few attempts had been made to grade the medium used. Compost was often visible above the level of the frame at the front. It is hoped that these comments will serve the purpose for which they are intended, and offered, and enable those entering .Furnished Aquaria in the Annual Show to avoid some of the more common pitfalls as the F. B. A. S. judges will look at things with a far more exacting eye than we three who gave of our best.

P.Blomfield, C.G.Brooks, G.G.Willis.

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**OLD TALES RE-TALED.**

The keener types about this time,  
( That band of valiants) prepare,  
In England's odd not sunny clime,  
(While others merely sit and stare?)  
Their fishes for the SLADAS show.

Devotees of Aquarius  
Their fishes early start to spawn  
(While others more hilarious  
In August can be heard to mourn  
Their failure in the SLADAS show),

Some among us enterprising  
Devote unto their plants much care.  
Others (though 'tis not surprising)  
Regret the fact they did not dare  
Enter a tank in the SLADAS show.

This year you've all preparing been  
Towards the forthcoming event  
The likes of which has ne'er been seen;  
So, make it this year represent  
A hundred per cent SLADAS show.

G.C.Willis.

**ANOTHER PRIZE?**

The Federation of British Aquatic Societies have instituted a new Diploma which can be awarded to any exhibit of outstanding merit shown at any show where the club is affiliated and the

recommendation of this Diploma is supported by two F. B. A.S. Judges, Let's see if Southend can secure the first of these new Diplomas? Well let's have a bash anyway. It is a case of everybody stands an equal chance whether they are tropical, cold water or Furnished Aquaria class entrants.

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### **ANNUAL SHOW TICKETS.**

There has, unfortunately, been a shortage of these tickets this year. It is therefore up to every one to sell all that they can as early as they can. If it is then apparent that they have more than they can dispose of will they please return those unsold, together with the proceeds of their sales to the Hon. Treas. whose address is given below so that those who have insufficient tickets for their requirements can dispose of the balance?

PLEASE TREAT THIS REQUEST AS URGENT — it will considerably help to swell the receipts as a ticket sold is worth a whole book full returned after the show unsold

Unsold tickets and the cash in respect of those sold should be sent to ;-

Mr. I. Cotgrove,  
103, Queens Road, Southend.

### **FEDERATION BADGES.**

The F.B.A.S. have produced a badge, depicting a Black Siamese Fighter, which may be worn by all members of clubs affiliated to the Federation. The price of these distinctive badges is 2/6d. Orders should be forwarded to the Hon. Sec., Our 'Orace in person.

### **THE "AQUARIST" LECTURE.**

Readers of the "AQUARIST" will have seen the announcement that a lecture tour is being given , including one lecture in London, by Dr. Myron Gordon. Tickets for this lecture, price 1/6d each can be obtained on application to:-

34., Wood Lane, Isleworth, Middlx. '

Envelopes should be marked "Lecture Ticket" and a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed.

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### **ROMFORD OPEN SHOW.**

Mainly for the benefit of newcomers but also to serve as a reminder to the others, a few intrepid members exhibited, fish at this show last year and acquitted themselves quite nobly. For those who are interested in showing the flag this year's show is being held in the

LAMBOURNE HALL ANNEXE, WESTERN ROAD, ROMFORD on 20th-22nd August.

Further details are available from our President.

Members will be sorry to hear that Mr. "Bill" Donges is seriously considering giving up the hobby and is desirous of disposing of his tanks and fish (including THE angel). He would prefer to dispose of them on bloc but would consider selling in units, i.e., tanks, stands, equipment

Will anyone interested please, contact him almost any evening after 8.30p.m. at his home;  
45, Norwich Avenue, Southend.

### **FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS.**

Needless to say there is no meeting, repeat, NO MEETING on the first Tuesday in August, although quite a good few of the members will meet to help dismantle the show and take their fishes back to their more normal surroundings.

The meeting on August 19th will as usual be a postmortem on what we did and didn't, or what we should do at the Annual Show. As is usual at this meeting the Committee will welcome CONSTRUCTIVE criticism, so that the defects can be remedied by next year's Committee, and the improvements put into effect, It is from our Annual Show that we receive quite an influx of new members so if you know of anyone who keeps fish and is interested in joining the club bring them along to the bun fight. If you are doubtful of the advisability of bringing them to this meeting bring them to a future one,

**SOUTHEND. LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY**

**MONTHLY JOURNAL., Volume 6\_No 8\_**

**August. 1953**

**The Society meets at 7. 45 p.m. nn the First and Third. Tuesday in the month at;-**

**THE LIBERAL HALL, Clarence Road,  
Southend-on-Sea.**

**EDITORIAL.**

Dear Readers,

Exhortations have at last met with success, or it may be that your conscience has at last mastered your pen. At any rate you will see that certain members apart from the habituals have contributed articles to this issue. May I hope that now that the good work has started it will be maintained. ( To tell you the truth my copy for next month's Journal is — except for the stock contributors — non-existent). Maybe I have been guilty of putting all my articles in one Journal but time alone will tell.

The Annual Show is now but a memory — except for the final reckoning. While, from an aquarist's point of view it was successful it must, unfortunately, be put on paper as a small financial loss. In view of the fact however that the weather completely forsook us, the first time that I can remember when we have not had some help from the Rain-gods we should be satisfied that the final outcome is as happy as it is. It will however mean that expenditure in the future will have to be closely scrutinised and maybe even worse. Here is one way in which ALL could help the Society. Except for this issue (and the September number when I shall be on holiday) this Journal is distributed at the second meeting in the month. If members would make a point of attending these meetings it would considerably reduce the expenditure on postage in forwarding to the absent members their copy of the Journal. So lets be seeing more of you in the future,

The Editor.

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**CLUB NEWS.** The results of the Annual Show  
1953 are as follows:

<p><b>Class 1</b> <b>Guppies</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Gibbs 2<sup>nd</sup> S.Lazell 3<sup>rd</sup> W. Hoare 4<sup>th</sup> H.Keeling</p>	<p><b>Class 2</b> <b>A.O.V Livebeares</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Penfold 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Connor 3<sup>rd</sup> D.Connor 4<sup>th</sup> H. Giles</p>
<p><b>Class 3</b> <b>Siamese Fighters</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> R. Barnes 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Gibbs 3<sup>rd</sup> W. Hoare 4<sup>th</sup> Mrs Gibbs</p>	<p><b>Class 4</b> <b>A.V. Gourami</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> M.C.Mash 2<sup>nd</sup> W.Hoare 3<sup>rd</sup> A. Hayes 4<sup>th</sup> M. C. Mash</p>
<p><b>Class 5</b> <b>Zebras</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> P. Blomfield 2<sup>nd</sup> W. Hoare 3<sup>rd</sup> M.C.Mash 4<sup>th</sup> D. Connor</p>	<p><b>Class 6</b> <b>W.C.M.M.</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> W. Hoare 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs Outing</p>
<p><b>Class 7</b> <b>A.V. Barbs</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> M.C.Mash 2<sup>nd</sup> L.Willis 3<sup>rd</sup> S. Lazell 4<sup>th</sup> P. Blomfield</p>	<p><b>Class 8</b> <b>Black Widows</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> R. Duboisson 2<sup>nd</sup> G.Willis 3<sup>rd</sup> P. Blomfield 4<sup>th</sup> W. Hoare</p>

<b>Class 9</b> <b>A.O.V. Characin</b>	<b>Class 10</b> <b>A.O.V. Egglayer</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> R. Duboisson 2 <sup>nd</sup> P.Blomfield 3 <sup>rd</sup> M.C. Mash 4 <sup>th</sup> P. Blomfield	1 <sup>st</sup> W. Hoare 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.Willis 3 <sup>rd</sup> W. Hoare 4 <sup>th</sup> P. Blomfield
<b>Class 11</b> <b>Angels</b>	<b>Class 12</b> <b>A.O.V. Cichlids</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> W. Hoare 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mrs Gibbs 3 <sup>rd</sup> R. Duboisson 4 <sup>th</sup> Mrs Gibbs	1 <sup>st</sup> Mrs Sweetenham 2 <sup>nd</sup> R. Duboisson 3 <sup>rd</sup> H. Giles 4 <sup>th</sup> Mrs Sweetenham
<b>Class 13</b> <b>Common Goldfish</b>	<b>Class 14</b> <b>Bristol Schubunkins</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> W.Hoare 2 <sup>nd</sup> W. Hoare 3 <sup>rd</sup> M.C. Mash 4 <sup>th</sup> M.C. Mash	1 <sup>st</sup> G. Pryor 2 <sup>nd</sup> S. Greaves 3 <sup>rd</sup> G. Pryor
<b>Class 15</b> <b>A.O.V. Fancy Goldfish</b>	<b>Class 16</b> <b>Coldwater Fishes</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> M.C. Mash 2 <sup>nd</sup> M. C. Mash 3 <sup>rd</sup> W. Hoare 4 <sup>th</sup> W. Hoare	1 <sup>st</sup> S. Greaves 2 <sup>nd</sup> J. McNaughton 3 <sup>rd</sup> J. McNaughton 4 <sup>th</sup> M.C. Mash
<b>Class 17</b> <b>Furnished Aquaria</b>	<b>Class 18</b> <b>Breeders Class Livebearers</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Mrs Penfold 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mrs Penfold 3 <sup>rd</sup> G. Willis	1 <sup>st</sup> D. Connor 2 <sup>nd</sup> D. Connor 3 <sup>rd</sup> W. Hoare
<b>Class 19</b> <b>Breeders Class Egglayers</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> I. Cotgrove 2 <sup>nd</sup> R. Duboisson 3 <sup>rd</sup> R. Duboisson 4 <sup>th</sup> Mrs Outing	

Individual Trophies, all of which changed hands this year, were awarded as follows:-

Abbott Cup (Highest points) W. Hoare. Flamboro' Cup (Best Tropical Fish) Mrs. Sweetenham.. DuBoisson Cup (Best Black Widow) G.Willis. Coronation Cup ( Best Brood Live bearers) D. Connor. Barnes-Oake Cup) (Best brood Egglayers) I. Cotgrove. Brooks Shield (Best Furnished Aquaria) Mrs. Penfold. Brooks Shield (Runner-up Furnished Aquaria ) G. Willis. Jones Cup ( Best Coldwater Fish) S. Greaves. Saunders Cup (Runner-up Coldwater) G. Pryor. Giles Cup (Best Home

Aquaria) Mrs. Gibbs. Anon Cup (Runner-up Home Aquaria) Mrs. DuBoisson, Novices (Home Aquaria) Mrs. Penfold. Southchurch Cup (Table Shows) M,C. Mash,

The prizes were presented by His Worship The Mayor, Alderman E.J. Selby, J.P.

Winning Ticket in the draw belongs to Miss M. Gibbs,  
(a niece of "our" Mrs. Gibbs) of 30, Bellevue Rd,  
Southend.

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### **Guppy Tank.**

No less than ten people correctly guessed the number of fish in the tank (113). At the draw held on Tuesday, 19th the winner was Mr. Royce, 157 Springfield Rd., Chelmsford, a member of the Chelmsford A.S. Good guessing!

### **SEEING THINGS ON A DIFFERENT "SCALE", by P. REGIUS.**

Some four years ago I crawled out of a leathery egg into some soft brown earth under a tree stump in the jungle east of Freetown, Sierra Leone and found myself surrounded by a lot of other queer looking creatures, long and thin, with tiny forked tongues flickering in and out, insolent they were too — staring at me in that rude way -- I'd have shown them a pretty tooth and a squeeze or two of the old coils if some instinct hadn't prompted me that they were my own kith and kin,

What a fearsome fellow I was — twelve inches of lithe muscle, who struck terror into the baby rats which were always for the taking under the verandah of the bungalow where the animals who walked on two legs lived. One day after a very heavy session with the rats I was taking a siesta in the sun by the wall when one of those two legged creatures — man I think they are called — stooped and lifted me into a sack. It happened so quickly that I couldn't even get a bite in, but I heard him say a moment or two later to another man (there must have been quite a few of them around from the unsavoury scent which was most noticeable through the bag) that my Mum had taken one of his goats the evening before but that he'd got one of the little perishers in the bag — me a "little perisher", — I was livid !

Much later I was taken out of the sack and placed in a box with a number of others of my kind and finally, after a very long time and a most unpleasant and unfamiliar up and down motion, the box was opened and I was lifted out into a bright light, and a loud voice said, "Ah, Python regius; what a nice little specimen I" So now I was a "specimen" . I felt another spell of lividness coming on and longed for something to bite but the only living objects were out of range. Still, at least I now knew my name — very attractive too, I thought, Regius eh? Something to do with Royalty no doubt. Anger gave way to pride.

They put me in a huge glass-fronted box with lots of most odd looking creatures moving backwards and forwards behind the glass -- most interesting show it was, never the same two days running. Couldn't help thinking how low in intelligence most of them were — kept tapping on the glass trying to make me blink — me, blink I, what, with no eyelids? Of course I was still pretty put-out about all this moving about and smelly handling, and had decided to stage a hunger strike, but they dropped in a smashing little baby mouse, -- and, well, I ask you, I was hungry. Made quite a neat job of that mouse, and was just relaxing when a voice from up above said, "He's actually eaten it". What on earth did they think I'd do — tango with it? You'd think they'd have some brain in those heads! But what really got me was

the "He" part of it, -- me, as dainty a girl Python as ever was! I give up!  
Had another galling experience recently, — hoisted out of the "den" one Friday evening, dumped in a sack, bumped up and down spread out — sandwiched in between the ugliest possible locking toad and a revolting locking lizard thing with a blue tongue. It wasn't too uncomfortable though, but lots more queer looking creatures came past the front and made the usual series of stupid remarks; "Was I poisonous?"; "How old was I?"; "How long would I get?"; "Would I bite?" — would I bite? — would I heck! there wasn't one there even worth a tongue flicker much less a decent bite. One of them kept taking me out and saying I didn't mind being handled — didn't mind, my eye!, it was just that he felt nice and warm that's all; and if I could only have got at that silly hamster thing, I'd have shown'em.

Oh well, I'm back in my own "den" again now and as long as the mice arrive regularly I can't complain — not that they compare with the rats under the verandah in Freetown of course I wonder if Mum<sup>ls</sup> had any more of their goats recently.....

#### **FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS,**

**September 1st.** . Mr. Creed, who was one of the Judges for our Annual Show will be coming down to give us one of his inimical lectures. (Let's hope his memory of certain Classes isn't too good)

**September 15th.** The last Auction Sale of the year. Let's make it a good'un and a bumper one. (We have got to do something to wipe out the deficit on the Annual Show) Entry forms are enclosed which should be completed and returned to the Hon, Sec. (his name and address, in case you don't know are on the front cover) to arrive not later than Friday September 4th to enable the catalogue to be prepared.

It has been suggested that members might like to donate an item or items (valuable or otherwise) from which ALL receipts go to swell the Club coffers. If you care to do so would you please asterisk or otherwise indicate such lots on your entry form.

## ON RETURNING TO THE. FOLD AGAIN

by Roy EDWARD

That word Aquarist has for me a fascination, and conjures up all sorts of visions of strange exotic shapes and forms. It is a word that I find causes a certain amount of mystification in the minds of the general public, to whom an Aquarist is a thing of some strange phylum of the animal world, or a thing of some awe inspiring or mysterious planet. That it is a person who has dealings with fish is quite beyond them. If they grasp this fact, they quite fail to recognise the significance between an Aquarist and a fishkeeper, who, as he tells his friends has five tanks and all full of fishes. .When asked about breeding , he quotes vociferously from books that he thinks that he has read, and not, as an Aquarist does, from experience that he has gained in actually breeding the fish. I repeat, a mere fish-keeper is this person, NOT an 'Aquarist'

How many of the SLADAS are there who call themselves Aquarists' by the above definition? Not many I suspect. I base this suspicion on the numbers who attended the meeting booked for July 21st. Less than thirty members were present for a programme scheduled for a lecture. This I feel is a bad reflection on the Club as a whole. In the past the Club used to be able to muster twice this number of members for a meeting, and many of them came from great distances to be present. We are never too old to learn. A platitude if you like, but at the same time a truism, and one which especially applies to our hobby.

While I have been away, I have attended one or two Club and Society meetings in London and in the Home Counties, where they were accessible from College .In nearly every one I noticed a spirit of enthusiasm, and pride in the Club. This I am afraid to say was not so noticeable in the Club meeting on July, 21st. This I feel is a great pity. The Club gives everyone in it a chance to air their pet theories and to give each other a helping hand in the 'Fishy Business'. Added to those, a more important point, to my mind, is the fact that we are all given the opportunity to learn something new (even our worthy Editor who has blossomed forth in a Lecturer's FBAS badge since I last saw him ( I know he would be the first to agree with me here). Even if there is no Fish Business as the main part of the programme for the evening, there is always the social meeting with people with whom one would not normally come into

contact. I mean whoever wants any insurance? But for the SLADAS the majority of us would never come across "Our 'Orace, our Hon. Sec."

As I sit typing this screed it comes to my mind that the Journal has been nearly wholly written by the 'Few' in the last months. Now that I have set the ball rolling let us have some articles by people breeding fish, to tell us what is. being done in the fish world in Southend. WE have a reputation in the Aquarist world in this country, let us live up to it. Great things are expected of us. Let us bring forth great things. Mr. Samuel Pickwick caused a fluttering in the Scientific and Philosophic world with his "Speculations on the Sources of the Hampstead Ponds with some Observations on the Theory of Tittlebats". This was widely acclaimed as a masterpiece. At least in the Pickwick Club. Have you no "Speculations" or "Observations" to make that would receive just as wide an acclamation in its own sphere? Tittlebats have been observed, There is plenty of room left on which to exercise our observations. Let us show each other that the Club is as active as it ever was and more so. I hope that my comments earlier are disproved and that I am confounded by the activity of the Club.

To end on a more happy note and probably a safer one, now that I am home and have been relegated to that thing which is worse than a mere fishkeeper, a mere keeper of fish tanks, (empty ones) I shall, I hope, see plenty of every one in the Club at the meetings and so take up where I left off two years ago.

In the meantime, may I wish all my old friends, and all my new friends who have joined the Club in the last two years and to those whom I don't yet know personally, all the best in the 'Fishy Business". Bigger and better fishes to all concerned.

The Club's tame Biologist.

))))))))))))))))))

**THE FORTHCOMING OUTING.**

The date of the above has been put back to Sunday, September 20th. REPEAT Sunday.

September 20th. We shall go by devious ways to Whipsnade Zoo, and (if we're not recaptured!) from there to Dunstable to see the Gliding. The coach will leave the White Horse at 9 a.m. calling at the usual pick up points at the usual times. There are about ten to a dozen seats vacant. So if you wish to come step in early and send your reservation together with the cash to the Hon. Sec. Price of the trip will be 9/- (nine shillings) per seat. This does not include the cost of entrance to the Zoo.

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**WELL KNOWN AQUARISTS AT HOME.**

By M.C.MASH.

### **6, MACK ROPODUS.**

The Editor of the "Foulwater Gazette" for my final assignment, asked me to visit the famous "Mack" at his estate. This was the worst job I have undertaken for you, the readers of the "Foulwater Gazette".

After sending off a telegram to "Wastewater", Slough-in-the-Wold, I strapped on my traps and set off on my one stroke for that salubrious rustication. It took me a full thirteen hours to reach there, for the "Gazette" was not the only thing foul, the roads were foul, and every now and then I ran over a fowl. Round about 11 a.m. I pushed my way through a jungle of giant mangle-wurzles and came face to feature with Mack..He was taking his morning doze. on what once might have been the doorstep of an ancient edifice. I conjectured that it had at some time been bombed but later found out that I was mistaken - it was a natural dump.

After shaking the old fellow into a semblance of wakefulness I introduced myself as the sender of the telegram many hours before, but he only mumbled something about the postman calling once a month and that the village did not possess a telegraph boy. However, he agreed to show me over his domain, He went off into a lengthy and garbled description of his vast estate and said he had lost himself on three occasions and had had to sleep on the forest land. But I soon discovered that he was prone to exaggeration and, as for sleep, well, I would not have been surprised if he had not been fully awake for thirty years or more. He seemed to suffer from some disease that I can only describe as a cross between hiccoughs and shimmies and it affected his speech. For instance, in reply to my question; as to how he was. the answer was in the nature of "gurgle-gurgle-gurgle" (like bubbles being blown from an aerator). His eyes were telescopic and when he mouthed at me I could visualise a deformed shubunkin,

He led me through the tangled convolvulus and stinging nettles into a clearing that contained a broken-down shed which passed off as a fish house, but it boasted of only one tank with a board labelled "The Third Coelacanth" - in very bad signwriting. I peered through the murky water and saw what I took to be a mud-skipper. There was also a glass case containing a small stuffed guppy. The inscription read: "Taken from the intestines of my dog Fido - causing death from appendicitis. Mack Repodus 1799. " by which I rapidly calculated that the old boy was 154 years old, which was absurd. He pointed to a wooden box containing a writhing mass of

worms and insects and blubbered the word "food". Whether for himself or his fish I didn't trouble to enquire. I did notice however that every now and then he pulled from his pocket a dead fish, and my dull brain conjectured that he was blazing a trail so as to be able to find his way back.

By this time I was getting into a state of palpitating alarm, which I was careful to disguise, as there is no telling to what lengths those maniac aquarists will go. Now and then he gibbered something unintelligible and I ascertained that the main building, or rather what was left of it, was haunted by the ghosts of a pair of Blue Acaras, former pets of Mack. Hastily looking around for a weapon of defence, I gradually backed out of his reach and when the opportunity occurred made a gallop through the door of the shed and so back along the alleyway to the front gate. I was about to mount my bike when a restraining hand grasped my arm. Fearfully looking round I almost died with relief to find myself looking into the smiling face of a hefty village constable.

"What's the hurry, zur", he said. I breathlessly told him I had escaped from a dangerous lunatic.

"Loonatic," says he "old Mack's no loonatic, at least not a dangerous one. He is only an ex-Committeeman of the Southend, Leigh and District Aquarist Society. He be druv that way by one of them thar Annual Shows".

### **ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF M.C.M,**

by I. G. Swill.

Our Honorary Adviser reports that an acquaintance had a most unusual experience during a recent spawning of *Esomus malayensis*.

He assumed that being grouped at all the major shows with the Danio family their method of spawning would be similar, i.e. non-adhesive eggs scattered all over the bottom of the tank, However to provide some comfort and shade for the fishes he inserted two pieces of *Myriophyllum* and was amazed to observe the fish interlacing the trends. He was even more amazed to see that when spawning actually occurred the fish remained motionless resting on one of the leaves. Only seven eggs were laid, which were placed in a cluster on the interlaced fronds. When the eggs hatched, the parents, whenever the fry grew too venturesome and swam off, returned them to the leaf. He also noticed that the parents didn't let the fry obtain their own food but gathered suitable food in their mouths and gave it to the fry. Our H. A. is unable to throw any light on this episode and can only assume that being Flying Barbs you must expect them to behave in some ways as would their arboreal counterparts!

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### OPTIMISTIC?

by L.E. WILLIS.

I think that we all find when breeding fish that our hoped for parents sometimes won't perform when we put them down and then spawn when we put them back in the community tank and we are off our guard. I know I have been caught out from time to time.

Recently I thought I would try some *Nannostomus anomalus* and having acquired a couple of females from a Club member, next day bought three males and two females from a local dealer. All went into a 30" x 6" x 6" tank for quarantine with a couple of bunches of *Hygrophilla* to make them feel homely. Temp. 78F. They are small mouthed fish and did not appear to feed very well or obviously, so they were treated to small daphnia and later brine shrimp. For three weeks they kept themselves tucked away and showed little activity and I became a trifle concerned as they did not seem any too happy. Quarantine through, it was decided to move them on to a 24" x 12" x 12" occupied by six young Cherry Barbs and, as anticipated, with this company and better space they immediately showed themselves off and coloured up well. Incidentally I find that most of my species prefer mixed company if it is of the right kind.

The quarantine tank was neglected for some days, than out came the plants and heaters. Some days later the junior fish member of the family was reminded to syphon out the water and after starting the job he suddenly spotted fry on the glass. Heaters were hurriedly replaced and temperature was carefully increased and now are about two dozen or so youngsters in various sizes and stages of development,

Two pairs of Blaokline Tets were also bought at the same time as the Anomalus and quarantined separately in an 18" x 10" x 10" tank and moved on to a community tank after three weeks. Result: in the quarantine tank a small shoal of 30 or so very active and attractive youngsters. These fish are, of course, easy to spawn and if the brood fish are removed early a heavy hatching may be anticipated.

The moral is that when acquiring fish it is worth while taking some extra trouble with the quarantine tank -say fresh water that has stood for a day or two, a bunch of plants (fine leaved if possible), gravel, proper temperature and good live food. There is quite a chance that the change over to new and clean conditions in the quarantine tank may stimulate a spawning which it is a pity to miss. And even avid egg-eaters can't scoff the lot – or won't if they are well fed!

(Members may recall that it was under similar circumstances that our worthy President obtained his first spawning of the now plentiful (in this area) Nannacara taenia. Ed.)

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**SOUTHEND. LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY**

**MONTHLY JOURNAL**

Volume 6, No 9

Sept and Oct 1953

The Society meets at 7.45 pm on the First and Third Tuesday in each month at;-THE LIBERAL HALL, Clarence St, Southend-on-Sea

**EDITORIAL.**

Dear Readers,

This Editorial will be a welcome change from the exhortations that it has contained in the past and may, I hope, even create a rosy glow of reflected glory, but will differ from the pavement artiste motto "All my own work". The following letter has been received from Mr. W.J.Page, the Editor of "Water life" as the result of the stalwart support you showed in providing the material for the August issue

Dear Mr. Willis,

Just a short note to say many thanks for the August issue of your Society's Journal. Very glad to note that you have had better support from members for this particular number.

Yours sincerely, (Signed) W.J.Page.

With such words of exaltation ringing in your ears and, "Where others before me far greater than I  
Your praises so loudly express, I've only to add that your thoughts may not die  
Before they appear in this press" While it must be remembered that this is a combined issue I can  
however say that for this issue the hope has materialised. It might not seem much but it certainly is  
a great help to this typewriter basher to have sufficient copy. So keep up the good work please.

Yours very sincerely,

The Editor.

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### CLUB NEWS.

On the evening of Tuesday, Sept, 1st, we welcomed back to the Society, this time as a lecturer, one  
of the Judges at our Annual Show, Mr. C.W.G.Creed. He had only recently returned, from Holland  
where he had had the signal honour of being the first British Judge to be invited to judge a Dutch  
National Show. Naturally we seized upon the subject of Dutch methods of breeding and from what  
we were told were amazed to learn that the majority of the Dutch breeders, despite the fantastic  
number of fish that they reared were all in the business in a small way. Very few of them possessed  
a fish house most of their breeding being carried out in the lounge and other rooms in the house.

We were however shaken, as had been Mr. Creed, when he informed us that in the Breeder's Class  
at this show he hadn't had to deal with six fish in one tank but with the whole brood, in some cases  
numbering over 800, in the same tank. For those who were unable to attend this meeting you can  
form your own conclusions as to the size of the tanks necessary to house such exhibits. We also  
were astonished not so much by the length of the tanks used as by the height but more particularly  
by the depth.

We were also informed that the whole essence of the Dutch method is lack of expense.  
The first foods are infusoria strained from the dykes, and we were also surprised to learn that the  
Dutch had no truck with Daphnia UNLESS IT WAS RED. We were told that the cost of Neons was  
less than eighteen pence and on being asked how the Dutch bred Paleatus were amazed to be  
informed that they didn't as the parent fish were far too costly for their pockets.

All together a very informative, and informal, evening was enjoyed by all.

**The Auction Sale** held on Sept. 15th has been reported to me as being the best we have had this  
year, both as regards quality and also quantity. Just my luck to be on holiday?

While those who attended the Whipsnade Outing were disporting themselves yours  
truly was also on the road — on the road home from his holidays in Norfolk. Once again I am able  
to report to you their doings thanks to our Special Correspondent, who jumped the gun in reporting  
in the August number that that was his last consignment for the "Foulwater Gazette". He has been  
press-ganged into writing a report of the outing so, here it is. Thank you Mark.

### Wonderful Whipsnade

A fair proportion of happy children made up the full complement of 39 who had the courage to visit their kith and kin at Whipsnade. I am not sure "weather" the "whether" was responsible, but "weather" or no the M.C, looked decidedly under the "whether" when we pulled up the hack at exactly 9 a.m. However someone proffered a bottle of smelling salts and all was fine and dandy. We threaded our way through the rural village? of our home county and the back seat boys had more than their share of thrills as the massive coach swerved round the benders. The small talk was naturally about fish - at least it sounded fishy to me but Billy Hoare could probably find a better definition. We were chased most of the way by a small green car, the occupants of which seemed to be enjoying their Outing!!

The smells of the countryside were a vast improvement to our Estuarine odours and we gulped in large quantities of pure unadulterated, uncontaminated and un-avaporated oxygen. We made one stop at an Hertfordshire estaminet on route; and laved our larynxes with hot tea and coffee -at least they said it was. Mrs. Littlewood — near relative of George Cooke — made a lot of money for the Club with her permutation stunts -- you know, one for sixpence, three for a shilling, seven for two bob and so ad infinitum — and we eventually bowled into a car park at Whipsnade just before lunch time. Those of us who were hungry uncorked the sandwiches and made what an onlooker might have thought was our last meal. The animals at the Zoo are treated much better than us humans — why we even had to fork out some "lolly" to get in. An elephant never forgets- and a three year old baby of 1¼ tons recognised most of us immediately and shook "hands all round", whilst his elder brother played a cadenza on the mouthorgan and transferred most of our loose change to his keeper's pocket.

The vast open spaces of Whipsnade are good for aching hearts but not for aching feet and after four or five hours of roaming in the gloaming most of us were walking on our ankles. However, we saw all there was to see Lions, Tigers, Bears, Zebras, Ostriches and Uncle Tom Cobley and all - and while we were getting an eyeful of animal life jet propelled gliders stunted over our heads. Monkeys scampered up and down trees and accepted what was going -except a pipe offered by one of our party who was spat. at for his generosity.

An uneventful journey back to Southend ended a happy day — we stopped only at Edmonton to take in fresh supplies and water, and arrived home before bedtime tired but happy. So ended the third and final outing for 1953.

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### **NEONS HAVE BEEN BRED !**

by P. BLOMFIELD.

Please do not be misled by the "title above — I can claim no fame for the eventual breeding of these elusive little Characins. I merely report on the achievement of another.

My brother who hails from Ashford in the blessed county of Kent is in the process of helping to form an Aquarist Society, in a similar manner to which ours had its beginning, with a few stalwart types getting together occasionally at one another 's homes, and one of those members is apparently having quite an amazing degree of success with some of the more difficult Characins -Rosaceus, Serpae and now Neons!

I have been promised the full details of his method, which will duly be reproduced in our Journal later, but in the meantime suffice it to say he uses an ordinary 24 x 12 tank with a light covering of boiled gravel on the bottom, about 9" of water clean but with apparently no special preparation), some 6" depth of blanket weed and six fully grown Neons. The tank was in one corner of the living-room receiving no direct sunlight, and the parents were not removed until first signs of fry were noticed. Feeding was with ordinary Infusoria at first and it seems that no really special efforts were made regarding scrupulous cleanliness. This is I fear, a most sketchy report, but I hope next month to be able to give you the full facts regarding this brood, which numbers some 70 - 80 fishes which ... were, at the time of first reporting some 8 weeks old.

### **OLD TALE RE-TALED**

Research into archives ( old Journals to you)  
Recalls an event of profound consequence,  
It raised such an uproar and hullabaloo  
That feelings ran high, the excitement intense,  
Livebearers with egg-layers won't cross we're told,  
A member (its stated) by dint of travail  
Mated a male sword with a Characin bold  
What name for the youngsters? Swordacini Chartaill

G.G.G.W.

**ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF  
M.C.M.**

Our Honorary Adviser answered the telephone and a voice poured out a tale of woe. It appeared that the fish in his community tank, instead of at least remaining at the same strength, were diminishing in numbers. What made the mystery more inexplicable was the fact that no dead bodies were recovered from the tank. As he also kept the top cover in place at all times except when actually feeding the fishes it was not possible that they could have committed suicide. Could our H.A. advise?

Our H.A. thought for a minute and suspecting the inclusion of a large Cichlid or member of the Killi fishes voiced his suspicion. He was informed that no member of either of these species were included in the denizens of the tank. Further questioning revealed that no feline member of the household could be blamed for the continued depletion of the aquarium's living contents\*

Having drawn a blank so far, our H.A. went round to carry out an on the spot investigation. No valid solution was apparent,

Our H.A. did however suggest that as Corydoras paleatus were in the tank unless an occasional saucer of milk was fed to those "cats" they could not be blamed for catching and eating their normal flesh diet!

Funnily enough this little bit of nonsense has produced a sequel but the boot is on the other foot as you can read from what follows.

BIRTHS, I have often seen recorded in this, our Journal. MARRIAGES? but rarely are recorded.

DEATHS, too are rarely recorded, so just to fill a gap, maybe, I hereby record the sad death of one known as . CORYDORAS PALEATUS.( Sex) Female. Born. 3rd August 1952. Died. 14th July 1953.

Sadly missed by its owner, and breeder E.I.Gibbs, "Huntly", Arlington Road.

**LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT ( "A" CERTIFICATE),**

by M.C.Mash.

He was introduced to her in the fall and he fell for her immediately. The temperature was inductive to frivolity and she coerced him to the limit. Her wasp-like waist looked very inductive; her shape was comely and her eyes glinted and swiveled in a most compelling manner. She annoyingly hid and revealed herself alternately behind the plantations and he could not restrain himself from emitting a piscatorial wolf-whistle. Stealthily approaching her from a direction which was advantageous to his designs he made a bid to cut off her retreat, but she was too quick for him and coquettishly darted with dainty movements from plant to plant. This preliminary courtship was mutual and lasted for several hours. Eventually tiring of frustrating manoeuvres, she at last pretended to submit, only to repeatedly escape by a hair's breadth at the crucial moment. But he was adamant and gradually edged her to a corner from which escape was next to impossible.

Desire had quickened his pulse and he had guiltily coloured to a vivid red round, the neck band. Realising that he was getting desperate, she pretended to be overwhelmed, only to make a despairing struggle at the first embrace. Then at last she limply allowed him to pursue his amorous designs, for she was very young and very inexperienced -a feminine weakness!

After a few pro-nuptial skirmishes he get seriously to work. Wrapping his body around hers in a crescentic arc he made love in the old-fashioned way and she ecstatically responded. This was not his first love affair and he handled her with delicate tact that occasioned in her a delightful understanding of passion, and she was as clay is to the potter.

He promised her a large family and by heck she believed him,

A few hours later he gently but firmly escorted her to the home he had with great foresight provided -it was artistically perfect and structurally jerry-built being composed entirely of bubbles — for he , you see gentle reader, our hero and heroine were merely a couple of Macropodus opercularis.

(Copy and film rights to shoot the author are vested in SLADAS and may be had for the asking. A fee will be paid to any person successful in achieving the early demise of this rival to James Hedley Chase.)

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## **THEY ARE SERIOUS IN THE MIDLANDS,**

by L.E. Willis.

At the "National" Show this year I renewed acquaintance with our Birmingham friends responsible for those excellent worm shredders and was shown the latest addition to the range.

My own shredders I thought were losing their efficacy after two years use but when I put this to him I was reassured that they never wore out. He asked me what type of worm I use for shredding and I had to confess I usually went out into the garden and dug hopefully until I had collected a few worms that took my fancy and that I considered suitable. He said that these were undoubtedly too tough to be good,

Our friend on the stand then produced the "right" worm from his demonstration stock - ½" or 2" long, thin and the whole of the worm an appetising red. Quite different from anything I had found in my garden, They shredded easily with a few gentle movements of the plates.

It seems that they attach importance to this for conditioning, breeding, and bringing on young fry and consider it very much worthwhile to get this type of worm.

The "gen" I was given was to prepare a small compost heap in the garden composed entirely of vegetable matter - scrapped cut flowers, flower stems and leaves, old cabbage leaves, etc., built up in one or two layers interspersed with loam. If the whole is kept fairly damp it should quickly rot down and the worms will take up residence and breed readily in it. Only the smaller worms are used, the larger ones being kept as breeders.

Have I tried it? Yes. even to paying the greengrocer for a sack of old cabbage leaves. And the worms?

Well I haven't opened up the heap yet as the first worms are not going, to our tropics but are being reserved to tempt the perch on the River Waverly when I sneak off for a couple of days coarse fishing!

## FORTH COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Nov. 3rd. Our visiting lecturer for this meeting will be Mr. Russell-Holland .whose lecture last March is still well remembered.

Nov. 17th. Members Lecturettes. Come along and let us know your "know how". Also Table Show for Characins.

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### SEX!

by JAMES HEDLEY CHASE MASH.

An aquarist (whether a he or she)  
Gives thought to the sex of his (her) fishes;  
To know all the answers of sex, you'll agree  
Is first of a breeders "three wishes".

A man that I know of who kept a few fish,  
Through volumes had pondered and battled.  
Resulting in putting a type. in a dish  
Then judged it a male if it rattled!

Now this is the wrong way of proving the sex  
Of fishes, both cold and exotic;  
And experts — in this way — you're likely to vex;  
They'll think you are drunk, or neurotic.  
So gather round comrades — a secret I'll tell --  
If sex is the cause of your flurry.  
In spawning — the one that lays eggs is the "gal"-  
The other's a male — so why worry?

But then you will Say with a face that unbends,  
"How about all the livebearing fishes?"  
So say I "Elementary, my dearest of friends,  
The gravid ones must be the witches" !

### **Here is an S.O.S..**

Will anyone who knows the wearabouts of Mrs. Ramsbottom return them to her immediately as the weather is getting cooler!

### **Here is another S.O.S,**

Will D'Arcy Largehead, who left home at breakfast time 73 years ago, return there at once as his kipper is getting cold!

### **And yet another S.O.S.**

Will anyone who witnessed an accident entering the top Alec on Feb. 31st get in touch with the police at once. They are anxious to return to him some I.O.U's. he mislaid! If any cash found return same to M.C.M,

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### **DIVERSITY OF OBJECTS,**

by P. Sullivan.

At one of our meetings a member raised the question of algae in tanks and asked for methods of removing the cursed stuff. The following may help in restoring the situation. Some live bearers are algae eaters, particularly Mollies and Guppies, Some egg-layers may also help to keep it under control, such as Gouramis, American Flag Fish and the- Australian Rainbows. All are "community tank" fishes and should at least help to keep the problem in check.

Another member wanted to know some easy fish, other than livebearers for the beginner to breed. Among the easiest are the Rosy Barb, Zebras, Buenos Aires Tetra, Betta splendans (the Siamese Fighter). The Paradise fish is also relatively easy but as it is of nature evilly inclined it is best kept out of the community tank.

White Cloud Mountain Minnows (the poor mans Neon Tetra) are most prolific breeders -- if left alone. Put them in a tank containing fresh water, with the bottom of the tank covered with fine moss or sea fern and some Sagittaria, feed regularly with fine food and give Tubifex twice weekly. DO NOT DISTURB THESE FISHES. Two females and five males seem to be an ideal combination. If you have a tank with a blacked back which you have used for their breeding tank you will notice later on tiny blue lights flitting backwards and forwards -- the young fry:, more beautiful than any tropical fish. They are not quick to mature so do not worry if the brood appears small. Keep the temperature normal as these fish were originally found in. the cool regions near Hong Kong and do not therefore need a high temperature.

My husband decided to clear cut his tanks and left them in various stages of denudation (as men do) for their wives to put away. It was over two months later when I decided to clear them out completely and put them away. I went to one tank to syphon out the remaining water and saw something moving around so promptly put on my glasses, In the tank ¼ full of water I discovered two small Nigger barbs! The temperature was 60. I transferred them to another tank and they grew into adult fishes, plump and 1½ inches long. They must have been eggs when the tank was left partially emptied and disconnected,

Another time my husband emptied the water from a tank into an old enamel jug and left it in the garden during a spell of wintry weather at the end of March. I needed the jug and on emptying it into a bucket (lucky me) I found ten White Clouds in good condition!

### **A TIMELY REMINDER**

The Year 1953 is drawing to its close and our Annual General Meeting looms large on the horizon. I know that is a n awful mixed metaphor 'but I hope you have got my meaning.

The term of office of the present Committee terminates in a very short time and it will than be necessary for a new Committee to be elected to carry on the work in 1954. So put on your thinking caps and ponder as to who you wish to be . responsible for being the bosses BUT REMEMBER all nominations must be referred to the nominee who may not wish to stand for election. It is no use just proposing Old Harry because he's a "good sort". Old Harry must agree to stand.

Some of you may wish to effect amendments to the existing rules. If so your proposals must be received by the Secretary at least 14 clear days before the A.G.M. as all such proposals must be circulated to all members before the meeting.

Also don't forget to secure your tickets for the Annual Dinner. Once again let me remind you that the date is not as published in your Membership Card. It will be held at Garon's Centre House, High St., on SATURDAY, November 28th — repeat SATURDAY November 28th. Tickets price 12/6 obtainable from the Hon. Sec.

### **THE PASSING OF A GUPPY.**                      by M.C.Mash, .

Death inevitable, sombre, devouring,  
Withering all in its trend,  
Death — merciful, merciless, o'erpowering,  
No being can apprehend.  
Sometimes' sudden -.- seldom foreseen,  
  
Regardless of beauty, or status,  
Death strikes the rich and the mean:  
Both discus and reticulatus

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY.**

MONTHLY JOURNAL. Vol. 6. No. 10.

November. 1953.

The Society meets at 7.45p.m. on the First and. Third Tuesday in each month at:-THE LIBERAL HALL, Clarence St. , Southend-on-Sea.

**EDITORIAL.**

Dear Voters,

Please do not be misled by the method of address,

I do not intend to propound party politics through the medium of our Journal but merely to remind you that whether there is a General Election in the near future or not YOU are required to come along to the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at which your next year's Committee will be elected. This is really your only chance throughout the year when YOU have the chance to frame the Clubs policy for the ensuing year. So, VOTE then or for ever hold your peace.

Incidentally, of course, before you can vote you must have some nominations of those for whom you will wish to vote, so, if you know the ideal person, in your opinion, to fill a vacancy on the Committee, contact him, secure his agreement to stand and forward your nomination to the Hon. Sec. Don't forgot that you must have the prior consent of the nominee before you submit your nomination. All officers are elected for a period of one year so all offices are vacant. While; I admit the Journal has been fun it h.as also been hard work, I'm by no means anything to write home about is a typist, so in my humble opinion I suggest that any nomination for this post should be an efficient typist. It will pay in saved temper if in nothing else!

Another thing don't be misled by our stereotyped heading — the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING does not. repeat NOT, fall on the first Tuesday in December, as there must always be an exception to a rule , this is it . The date is December 8th, i.e. the SECOND Tuesday in December. So .be seeing you in full force on that evening.

Yours, going into retirement,     The Editor.

### CLUB NEWS.

Those who attended the meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> were somewhat shaken to find "20 Questions" presented in the dark. However when the one light that did work came on it was accompanied by a whirring sound and there before their very eyes were fish the like of which they had never seen before. At least if they had seen them before it is highly dubious if they had seen them in an aquarium; more likely they had been featured on some foreign menu. In other words there was a change of programme and we sat quite happily in the dark and were entertained to a film show. At the end of the evening a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Reg Outing for the loan of his projector which made the show possible.

It is probable that this sort of evening may be duplicated in 1954 BUT much as we approved a suggestion from a bloke who shall be nameless (though he is known to all as George) there will not be featured "The Bikini Girl", in any case there's nothing new in this, one has just been recovered from a well in the City of London that was worn by some Roman bathing belle.

Those who attended the meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> heard another very informative and informal lecture by a speaker who knows what he is talking about and whose lecture given last February is still recalled on numerous occasions, I refer to Mr. Russell Holland who talked about breeding the Characins. It is with hope for our own endeavors that we heard him admit that as yet he has been unsuccessful in raising Neons, note that word raising because in his opinion two Neons in spawning condition will spawn in a 5lb. jam jar!

It was suggested that all the Characins may be spawned without compost but that if this method is resorted to we were advised to place under the tank a piece of brown paper. This enables the fish to find their swimming level in an otherwise bottomless depth of water, in addition to rendering the eggs more easily visible. If the piece of paper is not put under the tank the fish will swim around continuously with their noses on the bottom glass rather like the Head Swimming fish. In Mr. Russell Holland's opinion sterility and the softest water obtainable are the prime essentials for successfully spawning and raising the Characins.

The eggs, he maintains, contrary to what is said in Innes hatch in 18 to 24 hours but that it is not until the end of the second or third day that the fry can be seen free-swimming,

On infusoria Mr. Russell Holland had little to say other than that it should be fed for only a very short time, immediately the fry can be seen to be able to manage freshly hatched brine shrimp then all other feeds may be forsaken.

A very useful tip was given on feeding brine shrimp without also adding the empty egg cases. Hatch the brine shrimp in a small tank divided in half by a piece of glass (painted black) or a piece of slate in the centre of which a hole has been bored. The half in which the eggs have been placed should be similarly blacked out when the brine shrimp on hatching will make their way through the hole towards the light. They may then be netted out and the tank will not have its beauty marred by the inclusion of the empty egg cases,

The meeting closed with a very hearty vote of t thanks to Mr. Russell Holland,

#### **AMENDMENTS TO RULES.**

The following amendment to Rule 12 has been proposed which will of necessity be voted upon at The Annual General Meeting:-

"That the Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and two other members. Four members shall constitute a quorum".

Proposed by P. Blomfield.

Seconded by C, Green,

#### **FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS.**

The only meeting in December, which will take place on the SECOND Tuesday in the month, i.e. December 8th is the most important meeting of the year, to wit, the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

As it is at this meeting, that the Officers are chosen and the policy defined for 1954 it behoves ALL members to be present and help frame the policy to be followed.

This is your chance to effect changes if you are of the opinion that changes are desirable. SO ROLL UP ALL.

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**TO THOSE WHO SEEK FAME.**

Send your name in — don't be late  
To -take part in the poaching;  
The A.G.M., December eight,  
Is rapidly approaching.

Officers come and Officers go —  
They can! go on for ever,  
So come ye forth old so-and-so  
The Club needs your endeavor,

Jobs are going, without pay -  
And if you're nominated -  
You'll be polled for on that day,  
December eight, as stated,

The President (the job's a cinch) -  
Now you're the one we're seeking  
You'd be handy, at a pinch  
Just when the tanks are leaking,

Vice President, now here's a job  
Right up Your street - get cracking  
And pull a fast one- on the mob;  
You' re bound to get the backing,

Hon, Sec. — a scribe is needed here  
Who's tactful — diplomatic,  
You're just the man -- now have no fear  
We know you're not erratic,

The £, s. d. (or cash in hand!)  
A Treasurer is wanted.  
Just sign a cheque -- you understand —  
Big money! don't be daunted.

Then once a year we have a Show;  
Another Sec's essential.  
Come on kind sir, you have a go —  
You're very consequential,

Adviser? — well there's nothing here  
To worry one — I'm certain.  
Just tell the chap his fish is dead;  
He'd best pull down the curtain.

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Then one or two Committee men  
Completes the happy party.  
You're only needed, now and then  
To make life full and hearty,

Oh! just one more before I end;  
An Editor, in person.  
I'll help you with the "guff" I send  
Of every day excursion.

Now roll up laddies, don't be shy  
The jobs are all awaiting.  
You'll mix with big guys bye and bye;  
Now ain't that elevating?

It's names we want — I say again  
As this appeal is ended.  
Don't tell me that it has caused you pain,  
Or that you are offended.

M.C.Mash.

### **THE ANNUAL SHOW**

Your Committee, or should it be more precisely, your Treasurer had hoped to be in a position to publish in this issue a balance sheet of the Annual Show, so that we could all see how we stand. Unfortunately this is not at present possible due to no fault of the Hon. Treas. While members will be pleased to know that all our liabilities have been discharged — without recourse to an overdraft — it is regretted that the income from the trade stands occupied by both The Tropical Shop and Cross & Young cannot yet be brought to account.

When these sums have been received members will be presented with the complete picture, which I think I can assure them will not be such a dismal picture as some of the pessimists would have us believe, It will however not present the rosy picture that this enterprise has produced in the past BUT there is always another year and a little more enthusiasm from more of the members could appreciably change the picture.

## FEEDING OUR FISHES

by R.V.. EDWARDS.

Feeding fishes is a job that the aquarist takes for . Granted. He does it every day, Does he do it to get the best out of his fish feeds? He may do, but I should like to put forward a few ideas which may put him on to the deeper implications of the ;]ob he is doing, It is not necessary to begin by saying that fishes do not live on "some mysterious things in the water". This is a popular conceptio n which is of course quite wrong. We have to feed our fishes. There is a stupid and cruel practice exercised by some fish dealers; that is. to starve the fish under their temporary `care` and to let them live on hard-won reserves of food in their bodies. This practice serves to weaken the fishes reserves against all manners of complaints which can attack them. Fungus is one of the most frequent. Also, the water in the tanks keeps its clear appearance, and the fish are always active. This pernicious practice should be deprecated on many counts. Firstly, because of the weakening effect on the fish, and secondly because it inhibits if not stops growth altogether.

Judged from their feeding habits fish may be classified into three main groups. They may be grouped as:-

- (i) Herbivores,
- (ii) Carnivores," and
- (iii) Omnivores

To elaborate a little on this I shall only say that the Herbivores feed on vegetable foods only, the Carnivores on meat foods only and the Omnivores on almost anything, I shall not deal with the fish themselves exhaustively, but only give an example of each,

Firstly the herbivorous fishes. Of course the Mollies and the Platies are the best known in the aquarium. They are fishes which do not thrive if fed on a meaty diet, and more than this will suffer if not given a vegetable diet. Their natural foods are found in the ponds and streams in which the fish are found. They are the soft algae that live on the stones and on plants. They are not to be found in our tanks in any great quantity. This means that we have either to feed some to take their place or to give the fishes a substitute, If we are able to find the natural foods then good luck to us, but they are not easily found in our temperate climate. What substitutes are there? Before I answer this question, I should I think, say a little more about foods in general,

Speaking very broadly, foods fall into three main groups; namely Carbohydrates, Proteins and Fats I shall be

saying a lot about each, let me here elaborate on the these terms.

**Carbohydrates:-** Those are foods of the starch and sugar complexes. They are foods that form the immediate source of energy for the animal. They may be synthesized from other foods that are essential :for the animal in their food as carbohydrates, Herbivores need a good deal of carbohydrate in their food, Carnivores need much less but still need some. Absence upsets the Protein and Fat metabolism in the body.

**Proteins:-** These make up the essential part of the animal or plant cell, the protoplasm. In order for this to be built up the fish must have; protein in its food. Herbivores need to take in less than do the Carnivores.

**Fats;-** These are an important constituent of all foods. It is a food that in normal circumstances is one of the foods stored. in the body against a rainy day. It forms one of the essentials of the yolk of the eggs. If it is not given in the fish foods then the eggs formed are not complete, and the fry do not get the start they need.

Now to return to the question that I asked before. How do we find a substitute for the natural algae of the pond. An old friend to the aquarist, Bemax, forms part of the answer. This will supply the natural protein and the carbohydrate better still margarine. Of the vegetable oil it is better to think of Cod Liver or Halibut oil rather than say Olive oil as it is more easily digested, also, it contains some of the natural vitamins needed for the life of the fish. In order to mix the oil with the food, I take about an eggcup of the food to which I add about five drops of oil. mix well and then add the mixture to a packet of Bemax. This forms a good food when fed to the Herbivores. Grated or finely divided spinach or lettuce will be much appreciated by the fishes. This forms the live vegetable food which will help the fishes to come into their breeding condition,

Secondly, the carnivorous fishes. Of these the Fighters and Cichlids are the best known of the aquarium fishes. To live happily these fishes need a large amount of animal protein food. These may well be supplied by the live food fed to the fishes. In the absence of Daphnia from your favourite pond then earthworm will make a very good food. On what can we feed our Carnivores when we have no Daphnia or when we are suffering from some malady which prevents us from tilling the

garden to find. the worms? I find. the best food in these circumstances is one of the sea foods. Say for example shrimp or a piece of raw fish. A piece of raw meat purloined from the week-end joint will make a welcome addition. If these are not available then a piece of raw liver will make a very good food. This should not be overdone, as the liver which is not eaten will soon turn the tank foul, I must state that these meat foods must be raw as in cooked meats the proteins have been chemically changed and are not so easily digested. It is here that I must emphasise that the foods that I am mentioning supply their own balance of carbohydrates, proteins and fats when fed to the Carnivores.

Thirdly and lastly, the Omnivores. To say that they eat anything animal or vegetable does not mean to say that it will live on one or the other indefinitely. It means that more of one diet than the other is not good for the fish. In other words they must be fed a balance mixture of both. The commonly known fishes of this type are the goldfish and the Zebra. A fine diet for fishes of this types is a mixed diet of the types described for the Herbivores and the Carnivores. Alternate feeds of each make a well balanced diet,

So far I have not mentioned at all the essential part of the diet made up of the mineral salts. Of these common salt (sodium chloride) is the most important. It forms an essential part of the blood of the fish, and is lost from the body in the form of urine and the faeces. This loss must be made up in food which the fish takes in; if it is not in the food then it must be made up in the food in some other way, A good reason for feeding sea-foods, which have a high salt content. It should not be poured into the water but given in the food. It is present in all plant and animal proteins, but is more abundant in animal proteins,

As yet I have only mentioned, in a very cursory fashion, the Vitamins in the foods. As yet there has been very little work done on the need for vitamins in fish food.. All that is known is that they are essential in some way. The only one on which work has been done is Vitamin E. This is the fertility vitamin, and is found in the yolk of eggs, Its absence causes a deficiency in the fish. If the fish is fed on Bemax only this deficiency is likely to develop to some extent, but not to a great extent. It is a much better thing to feed the fish on a variety of feeds and so obviate the possibility. These notes are short but are based on sound scientific principles and should provide an intelligent insight to Club members into feeding their fishes,

## **A THEORY ON THE GROWING OF AQUATIC PLANTS**

by G.G.Willis.

That the beauty of an aquarium can be made or marred not so much by the selection of plants as by their quality needs no emphasis. Fish can in no way make up by their individual or collective beauty for a picture marred by plants of poor quality. It is realised that normally we have to be satisfied with a pleasing appearance of the community tanks in our homes, it is the best we can do in the circumstances. The following theory is advanced for those who, for show purposes, want to make a better than ever show.

For show purposes, where naturally we want the best, it occurs to me that we set about growing our plants the wrong way. In nature light is admitted from the top only in our aquariums it is admitted additionally from the sides. This excess of light can be reduced considerably by placing the tank in a situation where, while being in the light, it does not receive direct sunlight but then we lose the benefit; of the ultra-violet rays which are essential for normal growth. Extensive use of artificial light does not fully compensate for the absence of the beneficial qualities contained in sunlight.. Even in an aquarium situated in a green house or conservatory the quantity of ultra violet rays reaching the plants is less than in nature for, while glass in no way reduces the intensity of light passing through it, it acts as a considerable barrier to penetration of ultra-violet rays. We therefore doubly reduce the amount of these rays that could be utilised by the plants by having them growing in a glass sided container under a glass roof.

It would appear therefore that to obtain the maximum benefit from sunlight a tank, given over to growing plants only, should be placed in the open, the sides being blacked out. A friend of mine whose plants always incur my admiration and envy grows them in special tank in the open in which the glass sides have been replaced by slate.

To maintain growth plants absorb, through their roots, various minerals dissolved in the water which by combining with the elements carbon, hydrogen and oxygen obtained from the water and the atmosphere (or from air dissolved in the water) they build up under the influence of sunlight into the complex organic substances of which plant tissues are composed. This process is known as photosynthesis. This fact can be proved easily; plants receiving inadequate light deteriorate while even plants which do not require an abundance of light, e.g. Cryptocorynes-, without visibly deteriorating more or less suspend growth.

Terrestrial plants, whose nutrition requirements are the same as our aquatic species have been shown by experiments to require several elements in fair quantities, and several more in minute quantities (hence known as trace elements) for normal growth, deficiencies in any producing abnormal growth. Their roots penetrate into the soil which contains all these minerals; where they are lacking they are added in the form of natural or artificial fertilisers. We on the other hand grow our plants in a compost- that word is in itself a misnomer-which. to ensure clarity of our tanks has been thoroughly washed with the result that any mineral salts have been reduced, one might almost say eliminated.. Most of us use tap-water for filling our aquariums very of mineral. content is added with the water. It is obvious therefore that a freshly set up tank is anything but an ideal place in which to grow our utilitarian and ornamental plants. This is the reason why so often glorious plants suffer a severe set-back when planted in a newly set up tank due to nutrition deficiency, their development being retarded until the necessary salts are available from the soluble waste products from the fishes.. In this connection milk serves no useful purpose as it is insoluble, plants can only utilise dissolved salts.

While it may be inadvisable to add all the necessary elements for plant growth to a tank containing fishes there is no such deterrent to adding them where the tank is being used for growing plants only. A normal soil solution which contains the necessary elements in their correct proportions can be made as follows:-

Ammonium phosphate (mono basic)	½ oz.
Potassium nitrate	3½ oz,
Calcium nitrate	2½ oz.
Magnesium sulphate	1½ oz

All in 25 gallons of water.

The trace elements can be supplied in the following way.

Iron. Dissolve a teaspoonful of iron tartrate in a quart of water. Add 1 pint to the 25 gallons of the main solution,

Boron. Dissolve a similar quantity of Boric Acid in a gallon of water. Add 1 pint to the main solution.

Manganese. Dissolve same quantity of manganese chloride or sulphate in a gallon of water. Add 1 pint to main solution,

Zinc sulphate. Dissolve same quantity in a gallon of water.  
Add 4 teaspoons to main solution.

Copper sulphate. Dissolve same quantity in 4 gallons water.  
Add one. teaspoon to main solution.

This solution is only suitable for terrestrial plants. It would need considerable dilution for our purpose because aquatic plants are adapted to absorb, through their roots, considerable quantities of water containing relatively, small amounts of dissolved salts against the smaller quantities of a stronger solution absorbed by their terrestrial counterparts to provide each with a sufficiency of nutriment. Why if this is so should not a rich solution promote even more abundant growth? The answer lies in the roots themselves. The strength of the sap solution within the root cells must be stronger, or more concentrated, than that which surrounds them. When this condition obtains the weaker external solution is drawn into the root tissues and the plant is enabled to obtain nutriment. If the converse obtains the fluid within the plant is drawn out and the plant will die. (This has happened to the aquatic plants in the ponds, etc. subjected to the recent sea-water flooding in this neighborhood). Another way of supplying the food requirement of plants is to grow them in an unwashed medium,

It would seem that the ideal way of growing plants is in direct sunlight, permitting unrestricted lighting from the surface only, the plants being rooted in our standard compost with the mineral salts being supplied artificially. While sunlight promotes growth of the plants it unfortunately aids algal growth, which, while in no way interfering with their satisfactory growth detracts from their beauty.

To restore them to their full beauty do not attempt to rub the algae off either by running the leaves through your fingers or by washing them with a very soft brush. You will either fail to remove all traces of algae or damage the leaves and the plants will still not look their best. A much more satisfactory method is to remove the plants from the tank in which they have been grown and plant them in a newly set up tank. Throw into this tank a handful (and for the quantity of plants necessary for a furnished aquarium I mean a hand full) of Ramshorn snails, which, having no other source of food available will devote all their time to stripping the algae from the plants. If this is done three days before the plants are required for show purposes you will find that the plants have been restored to their full beauty, the snails are replete but have not had time to start making a meal off the plants themselves.

(Since this article was written we heard Mr. Russell-Holland in his lecture state that plants grow best in a tank that is approaching overcrowding with fish. In other words the salt solution from dissolved excreta is high.. Referring to his first lecture in March, of course)

**A SPECIAL APPEAL FROM THE LIBRARIAN,**

It is requested, that all members who are in possession of Club Library books will return them to the Librarian at the Annual General Meeting on Dec 8th.

If members know in advance that they will be unable to attend this important function would they please return the books to:-

M.C. Mash, 64, Brightwell Ave, Westcliff.

**ADVICE WAS SOUGHT or THE HAUNTING OF M.C.M. by I. G. Swill.**

The trouble, reported to our Honorary Adviser, started, the member stated, .when in a tank of the .larger community fish he put one or two not so very large; Cichlids , The tank now contained pairs of Helostoma temmincki, Danio malabaricus , Barbus conchoniis, Hemmigrammus caudovittatus, Trichogaster leeri and Barbus chola while the Cichlids consisted of pairs of Aequidens marooni and (hebelieved) Pterophyllum eimeki.. All appeared to get on well with each other, no fights had been noticed. The first named pair had, however, appropriated one corner of the tank and mildly resented intrusion, but were not vicious in ejecting visitors to their domain. The Aequidens marooni had selected the centre of the tank with the result that only one end could be called a "community" tank,

The trouble was confined to this community end. At some time or other all the inhabitants thereof had suffered from inflamed eyes, which had responded to treatment without any apparent ill effects on the fish. The inflammation however was recurrent and what was more puzzling was that it only affected the fish at the "community" end. Had our H.A. ever experienced the like?

Our H.A. admitted that he hadn't and asked to see the tank. Everything was normal. Even if it hadn't been it would not have; helped much; why should ill effects be experienced at only one end of a tank? He did however suggest that if you have a pair of Kissing Gpuramis you must expect other fish to play "gooseberry" and if their only way was to look through keyholes you must expect them to suffer from colds in the eye!

(Ed.'s note, Helostoma temmincki : Kissing Gourami. Aequidens marooni: keyhole Cichlid after, the dark keyhole shaped mark on the body)



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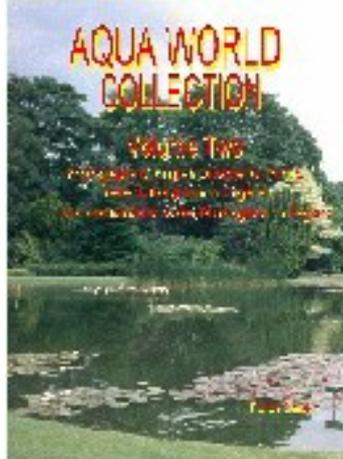
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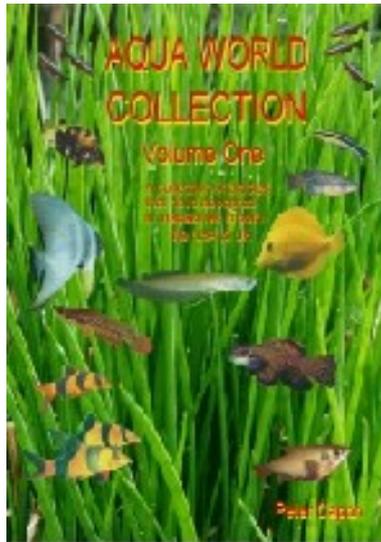


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## LINKS

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