

Aquarium Fishes.*

IT is hardly realised that the ponds and ditches of India are full of small, brilliantly coloured fishes, some of which are greatly prized by aquarists in America and Europe. Millions of these fishes are trapped or netted every day for food purposes without the least idea that if a trade in these very fishes is properly organized, it can be a source of considerable income to the fishermen. An Englishman, whose wife and children were greatly interested at home in aquarium fishes, once enquired from the writer whether there were any aquarium fishes in India so that his family could spend a few happy hours with them every day during their stay in Calcutta. He was directed to collect fishes from any pond with a growth of aquatic plants and to his great surprise he obtained in one morning several specimens of *Brachydanio rerio*, *Esomus danricus*, *Barbus ticto*, *Barbus conchoniis*, *Panchax panchax*, *Colisa lalia*, *Colisa fasciata*, *Nandus nandus*, *Badis badis*, *Ambassis lala*, etc., etc. The wealth of material is simply staggering and though in India fishes can be kept in aquaria with considerable ease, there are several points on which an aquarist needs instructions and proper guidance. Several books have been written on "Aquarium Fishes" to meet this need, but the recent book of William T. Innes of Philadelphia entitled "Exotic Aquarium Fishes" is the best work of general reference that has been published so far. Mr. Innes besides being the editor of a very popular journal "The Aquarium" is the author of "The Modern Aquarium" and "Goldfish Varieties and Tropical Aquarium Fishes". As an editor of a popular aquarium magazine, Mr. Innes is flooded with enquiries of all sorts and this has afforded him an opportunity to know what kind of an aquarium book general readers need and want.

The greatest need of an aquarist is to

know how he can keep his aquarium and fish healthy and to meet this demand the author has devoted a great deal of space to "Primary Principles" dealing with oxygen, light, temperature and food. Attention is also directed to fishfoods, enemies and diseases of aquarium fishes, general management of aquarium and plants and planting. The classification of the aquarium fishes is in conformity with the rules of zoological nomenclature and in this connection the author had the benefit of the advice of Dr. George S. Myers, a great authority on the taxonomy of fishes. Each fish is properly illustrated and a vivid description of its habitat and habits is given. The author has given detailed information regarding the pronunciation of scientific names, the spawning of the egg-layers, the breeding of the live-bearers, the breeding of the Bubble-nest Builders, the hybrids and hybridising, the wholesale breeding of fishes and the sex changes in fishes. Useful hints are included about the collecting and transporting of aquarium fishes. An index of fishes and a cross index of general subject render the information contained in the book easily accessible. A special feature of the book is the inclusion of maps. There are seven small maps showing the world distribution of the 7 most important families of aquarium fishes. A world map is also given and under each species is included a key reference to the places on this map showing points from which the species has been taken. In short, the book is a compendium of much useful information concerning aquarium fishes and no pains have been spared to make it most up-to-date and authoritative. The author is to be congratulated on this production and the publishers, Messrs. Innes Publishing Company, have really brought out a work of art. The paper, the get-up, the printing, the binding, etc., are all that could be desired for the very moderate price of 5 dollars (postpaid).

* *Exotic Aquarium Fishes*, by William T. Innes. (Innes Publishing Company, Philadelphia.) Pp. 460, with 41 colour plates and 290 black-and-white illustrations. Price \$ 5.