

SECULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

April 11. Natural History. No. 2.

FISHES.

Fishes are vertebrates which have cold blood, and live wholly in the water and breathe by means of gills. The parts which correspond to the arms and legs of other animals are usually very short, and are called fins. The eye of a fish has no motion, and the pupil is always of the same size, both in light and darkness; the ear is wholly enclosed by the bones of the head and hence it is generally believed that they hear only the loudest sounds.

The number of eggs laid by one fish is often very great,—the salmon sometimes laying twenty thousand and the cod more than nine million. Most fish possess a singular organ called the "swimming bladder." This is a kind of pouch situated close under the backbone, and filled with a gas called nitrogen. The fish can rise or sink by means of compressing or expanding this pouch, without using its fins or tail.

There are more fish than all other vertebrates put together. Those that live in shallow water are usually of brighter colors while those that live in very deep water are generally dull in color. Some fish have very peculiar ways. In Central America there are fish which leave their ponds when the water dries up and jump along over the ground in large droves in search of more water. Another kind has the power of lying dormant in the mud until it rains and thus preserves its life. Another kind climbs up the trunks of trees, and the archer fish of Japan lives on insects which it shoots with a drop of water blown from its long snout. It can in this manner shoot an insect that is four or five feet away and then as it drops into the water the successful archer immediately swallows its prey.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. To what branch of the animal kingdom does a fish belong?
2. Tell about the fishes' eyes.
3. Can a fish hear us talk?
4. How many eggs does a salmon sometimes lay?
5. Tell about the "swimming bladder."
6. Which are prettier, fishes that live in shallow, or those that live in deep water?
7. Tell about four kinds of fish that have peculiar habits.
- 8 to 10. Tell fish stories.

Gem of Thought.

Science will beautify the lives of those who will arise from the dark recesses of error.

HOLY BIBLE LESSON.

Unnatural History.

FISH STORIES.

Jonah 1:17: Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:10: And the Lord spake unto the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Matt. 14:17-21: And they said unto him, we have here but five loaves and two fishes. He said, bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit on the grass, and took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled, and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Luke 5:4-7: Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering, said unto him, master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing, nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes. And their net brake. And they beckoned to their partners which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them; and they came, and filled both the ships so that they began to sink.

Ex. 7:17-21: \* Thus saith the Lord, In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord; Behold, I will smite with the rod that is in my hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. \* \* And the fish that were in the rivers died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

Matt. 17:24-27: What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money; that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

"Fishy" Thought.

"And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

UNIVERSITY NOTES.

The lowest bid for the bill of 110,000 feet of lumber is \$677.50. the contract will soon be let.

There is some talk of changing the location of the University from Coolidge's hill to a tract west of T. D. Allen's residence.

The provisional deed that was obtained from Ai Coolidge & Co. was not satisfactory to many, and we will be obliged to secure a straight warranty deed or lose much support.

Frank and Amy Forward are visiting their sister in Salem this week.

We wish to thank the students who so willingly marched in the procession decoration day.

Jerry Desart is putting in much of his spare time making cuts for our new S. S. S. quarterly which will be out in about twenty days.

As soon as the comedy-drama, JANE, is played Miss Kate De Peatt and Mrs. M. P. Hosmer will start for eastern Oregon on a lecture tour. They will deliver the first lecture of the series at Liberal hall, Silverton, Sunday evening, June 13.

Captain Allen's side of the Y. P. S. S. C. will be royally entertained at the Liberal hall next Friday evening after the concert.

University Fund.

Previously Acknowledged.....	\$1784 50
Citizens of Silverton and vicinity. 280 00	
Total.....	\$2044 00

SECULAR NEWS.

Next week we will publish the memorial sermon delivered at Salem, May 30, by Rev. W. E. Copeland, pastor of the Unity church.

Parties desiring to take advantage of our book offer on the fifth page of this issue should order their books at once as the offer will likely be discontinued after July 1st.

The Silverton Marine Band Orchestra will give a concert at Liberal hall, Friday evening, June 4. Silverton can boast of one of the best bands on the Pacific coast and a splendid concert is assured.

The comedy-drama JANE that was advertised in the TORCH last week for June 5, has been postponed until Saturday evening, June 12.

The Fourth Annual Assembly of the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Association will meet at Gladstone Park, Oregon City, Oregon, July 13-14, 1897. A number of celebrated speakers from all parts of the United States will be in attendance. The meetings will be held in the auditorium which will

seat three thousand people. Hon. W. J. Bryan will speak there the day before the opening of the Chautauqua assembly.

Dr. C. Elton Blanchard of Cleveland, Ohio, noted for his lectures and writings, has been invited by the Oregon State Secular Union to visit the state of Oregon, and we are informed that he will be here within the next twelve months and devote a few months to the Secular cause in Oregon, contributing to the Liberal University one half of the money made by his lectures. Secularists should be prepared to give him a good reception.

Wagner, Oregon, will celebrate the Fourth of July in Secular style this year as usual. Miss Kate De Peatt will deliver the oration.

Pearl W. Geer, president O. S. S. U. will soon start on a lecture tour through southern Oregon and California.

The enemies of the O. S. S. U. are circulating false reports in regard to our ethical basis. Be sure you know what it is before you condemn it.

Little Points.

If people were as anxious to do good as they are to make money, they would all be comfortable and happy (rich) in one decade.

If there is a god that loves the world he has a very poor way of

showing it.

Theologians answer arguments by refusing to discuss, and overthrow skeptics by ignoring facts. The scientists answer arguments with facts and overthrow the priests by the use of reason.

Preachers do not tell all their doubts.

When men get better than their gods, then the gods die.

Many people who are cruel to their friends here, talk and sing of meeting them "over there." How would it do to be kind and loving and make each other happy here. We meet our friends every day, and this is a good place, if we will but make it so. We have no proof that we will ever have another chance. Let us improve this one.

Some Christians believe that their god is everywhere; the heathen of old believed that their gods were in the rocks, trees, animals, streams, etc. Does belief of this kind do any good?

The priests have always prevented man from using his reason.

In the fable, when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge they must have been poor, ignorant, man-like animals. Doesn't it seem too bad that a god would punish the whole human race for this one ignorant mistake of trying to gain knowledge.