## TALK WITH A FISH FARMER.

THE UNIQUE INDUSTRY OF A CIN CINNATI NATURALIST.

An Old-World Means of Money-Mak-ing That May Be Easily Local-ized—Raising Gold Fish.

One of the Enquirer writers paid a visit to the fish nursery, and some account of the place and business, as he found it, may not be uninteresting. The ponds lie about two miles west of Spring Grove avenue, near the extreme west end of the cemetery, and are situated in the center of a natural amphitheater, much resemb-ling that about the race-track at Latonia. While, of course, smaller than the racetrack, the ponds are arranged in precisely the same shape, being placed side by side, and built in the form of a circle, with one large circular pond in the center, so that the stream of water which feeds them runs through every pond in the circuit before it escapes and proceeds on its way to Mill creek.

"Yes, sir; I am a fish farmer, if you like to give me that name, although the usual designation for a man in my busi-ness is a 'pisciculturist,' " said Mr. Mulertt, who will be remembered as the exhibitor of immense aquaria at the late expositions. "See here." He dipped a long-handled net into the clear water of a pond before him, and after a few quick motions landed high and dripping on the grass a plump two-pound fish. Its color was a very dark gray—almost black—and the black scales, fringed with white, which covered it, were as large as one's thumb-nail

"That fish is the German mirror carp. It is a fine food fish-hardy and a very rapid grower. The government wants to give every man in this country as many of those fish as he will care for, and it has always been a surprise to me that there are comparatively so few ap-olicants for them. There is fully two pounds of meat on that fish before us, and I can truthfully say that he has not cost me one cent for food since he was given to me. Unlike other animals, a ish in confinement will forage for him-self all the year round, if his pond is properly built and contains a few aquatic

"In Europe, one of the most important features of a country gentleman's establishment is the fish pond. How many private fish ponds will you find in the suburbs of Cincinnati? Comparatively few. And yet I do not hesitate to say that nothing is better calculated to give pleasure and profit than a private pond. It may serve the purposes of a flower bed by being planted with water lilies; it can be boated through in summer, and skated upon in winter; in spring and summer it will afford fresh fish and the sport of catching them; and on the first winter after it is built enough ice may be cut from its surface to pay for the entire cost of keeping it up for a quarter of a century.

"Now, we will replace the carp, and I will show you a gold fish which I have imported especially for the purpose of stocking out-door bodies of water." The gasping fish was slipped gently in-to the pond, and the net was lowered

among some broad-leaved aquatic plants which completely covered the top of an adjoining basin. This time the plunge brought out a brilliant vermillion creature, fully as large as the German carp, but much more active. The quick sweep of its tale as it left the pond sent the drops of water in a shower for twenty feet in every direction. 'This is a fish," said the exhibitor,

"which is little inferior to the trout in gameness as well as on the table; and worthy of every honor. These fish swim winter, and in a couple of years will sometimes reach the length of three feet."

"What are they-" "Hist! Keep perfectly still for one minute. Don't move, please"—and before the writer knew what was the matter Mr. Mulertt had slipped up the hill to his house and was returning with a twenty-two caliber Flobert rifle, charged and cocked. He pointed the muzzle at the root of a tall clump of pampa grass on the edge of one of the ponds, there came the sharp crack from the exploding cartridge, and then a small brown watersnake threw himself out of the hole in which he had been hiding, and writhed

on the grass in full view. "Snakes are among my worst enemies," said the shooter, ejecting the shell from his rifle, and coolly replacing it with a fresh cartridge. There is rarely a day asses that I do not shoot one or more of them. Turtles and muskrats are also great pests. With this rifle I shot no less than fifty blue herons on this pond year, some of them standing four and five feet high, and as for cranes, king-fishers, frogs, crawfish and newts, they make my life a burden. The snake The snake is in the habit of lying hidden from view, with only head exposed, and playing his tongue into the water. The young fish imagine the tongue to be a worm, or something suitable for their dinner; but they no sooner approach it than the snake seizes them, and instead of eating they

are enten. "The craw-fish do very little damage in the way of catching fish; but their nature prompts them to undermine the walls of the ponds, and so keep me busy repairing their ravages. With their claw, too, they very often tear away part of the fin or tail of a valuable goldfish, thus giving it a ragged appearance,

which reduces its value. "Common geese, ducks and swans, marts of the world.

when they have access to a fish pond, will do great damage by devouring the eggs and young fish."

### Animal Life in Japan.

Professor Rein, a German scientist and traveler, says that Japan has at least fifty species of mammals, including apes, bears, dogs, martins, badgers, foxes, mice and rats, hares, boars and deer. The last are exceedingly numerous. In the winter of 1874-5 30,000 deer were killed on the plains of Hidaka, in south-east Yezo. Cows are used not for their milk, but for draught and burden. Other domestic animals are little horses, dwarf dogs, stunted-tailed cats, rabbits, pigs and various fowls.

There are at least 350 species of birds, most of which agree with those of Eu-rope. The tops of houses form resting and roosting places for sparrows, ravens and kites, which act as scavengers. There are many fine singing birds. Pheasants abound, and a hunter can bag a dozen head in a few hours in the reed beds and paddy fields. Swimming birds, of course, are most numerous. They rise by the ten thousand at the sound of a pistol along the bay of Sendal. Even in the heart of Tokio wild ducks and geese are found in flocks.

Reptiles and batrachians are not numerous. They have three turtles and four sea-snakes. The fresh water tortoise so frequently represented in bronze is the symbol of long life and happiness. In the temple tanks, protected by the priests, are to be found many a Methuseleh of this horny-backed race. There are only eight snakes. The Japanese have no respect for the harmless kind, but they entrap the poisonous mamushi, skin it, cook it, and eat it as a nerve food. They use mountain-newts, boiled and dried, as a mountain forward to the same of the remedy for consumption and worms. Among the curious animals is the giant salamander, which reaches a length of 150 centimetres. It is rapidly dying off. Fish, too, are exceedingly numerous, and form a staple article of food. Hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants are engaged in fishing and yet there is no dim-inution in numbers. Cannibalistic fish, like the pickerel, are not found. There are now 600 species known and the list is by no means yet full. Professor Rein himself collected 152 species of beetles. Fleas and musquitos are prevalent, but the ferocious civilized cimex lectularius has not followed trade and the missionaries into the Islands of the Hesperides. The waters abound in crabs, but there are, as yet, no lobsters. The latest scientific works enumerate 1,200 species of mollusks. One kind of shell was used by the Japanese as a signal horn. In blowing them riot was indicated by one blast, fire by two blasts, robbery by three, treachery by four. A boaster was said to blow the Triton's horn.

## A Living Light,

"Come into my sanctum," said a natur-

alist to a Cincinnati Enquirer writer, "and I'll show you something odd."

Accepting the invitation, the writer soon found himself in a cozy library filled with books and the various adjuncts of the professional naturalist. The owner carefully closed the blinds and shutters of the window and turned out the gas, leaving the room in total darkness; only for a moment, however, for directly over the writer's head began to gleam a soft rich light or lights that darted about, now blazing out into exceeding brightness or anon dying away, but in the main emitting a glow sufficient to read the heading of an Enquirer column with perfect ease.

"New electric light?" suggested the writer.

then notice his brilliant colors. He is called the gold orfe, and is pre-eminently the aristocratic game fish of the world.

"Hardly," was the reply. "It would be difficult to get a patent on this; no one could describe how it is done. In He is to be found in the pond of every fact," continued the naturalist, stirring German nobleman, and, I must say, is up the lights, making them blaze again, up the lights, making them blaze again, 'you have been reading the Enquirer by in schools near the top of the water, and in consequence are particularly fitted for fountains and ponds. They are perfectly hardy, may be left in the ponds all from Bahama, and brought two or three hundred with me to see if I could keep them; and adopting the method of my host in the south, I put them all in this small silver basket, and, as you see, if we were entirely deprived of other light we might get along very well with this."

## Farming in Roumania.

Seventy per cent, of the inhabitants of Roumania are engaged in agricultural pursuits, the principal productions and exports being wheat, Indian corn, and other cereals, oil seeds, and wine. Tobacco is largely grown for native con-sumption. Timber is not exported to the same extent as the thick ancient forests still extant in some portion of the country would lead one to suppose, but the reason of this is the primitive condition of the roads in the best-wooded districts and the absence of navigable rivers on which rafts could be floated. Cattle, hogs, fruit, hides, vegetables, wool, and some ordinary productions of the dairy are all exported either in smaller quantities or under less advantageous conditions than would be the case were more care and attention paid to improved modes of farming and breed-The country is almost entirely deing. The country is almost entirely de-pendent on foreign trade for all kinds of commodities, there existing no native manufactures of any importance.

A lady writes to the New York Sun this sure cure for snoring: "A remedy for snoring, and I have had a better half who was greatly affected that way, is to let the person so afflicted before going to bed drink a cup of strong coffee, without milk or sugar in it, and lie on their right

It is a fact, perhaps rarely known, that three Bangors—Bangor, Me., Bangor, Northampton county, Penn., and Bangor in Wales—are the three leading slate

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Yours truly.

Yours truly. JAMES ANDREWS, No. 10 Marshal St., Ida Hill, Troy, N. Y.

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