

A THREE LEGGED WOODCOCK.

It is rare that monstrosities in nature are ever able to hold their own in the struggle for existence. An exception appears, however, in the illustration herewith: a three legged woodcock, shot by Mr. Jules Reynal, near White Plains, New York, last September. The third leg was attached just below the vent, and dragged, as shown in the cut. It appears to have been in reality two legs in one, the double bones showing quite clearly, and the six toes being distinct and nearly perfect. The bird has been sent to Professor Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, from whom we hope to receive an account of the internal anatomy of this curious freak of nature. The bird when shot was well grown and in good condition.

Experiment with Carnivorous Plants.

To test fairly and on a large scale the conclusions arrived at by both the venerable Charles Darwin and his son Francis, with respect to the benefit derived by carnivorous plants from the insects they destroy, Mr. Peter Henderson, of Jersey City, has tried the following experiment. He procured, in March, from Keenansville, North Carolina, a large number of *Dionaea muscipula*, which reached him in fine condition.

Selecting from the lot two hundred of the strongest plants, he thoroughly rinsed them in water, so that every particle of soil and all other matter foreign to the plants was removed. He then procured two boxes, three feet by three feet and three inches deep; these were filled with moss (sphagnum) and sand mixed, in about the proportion of four parts moss to one of sand, forming a soil somewhat similar to that which they had been growing in naturally; this compost had been also subjected to the rinsing process so as to clear it from impurities. One hundred of the fly-traps were planted in each box, the plants selected being as nearly alike as possible. After planting the boxes were each copiously watered with pure water and placed in a cool and partially shaded greenhouse. One box was covered with a wire netting, as fine as could be procured, so as to exclude insects; the other was left uncovered. By about the middle of May, two months after planting, the plants had begun to grow freely, and the "feeding" process was begun with the plants

in the uncovered box. In this he was assisted by Mr. William Tait, one of his neighbors, a gentleman of leisure, and one who is well versed in many branches of natural science; between them the one hundred uncovered fly-trap plants were "fed" almost daily for three months with flies and other insects. In August, three months from the time the feeding began, the operation was stopped, and the most careful examination and comparison failed to show the slightest

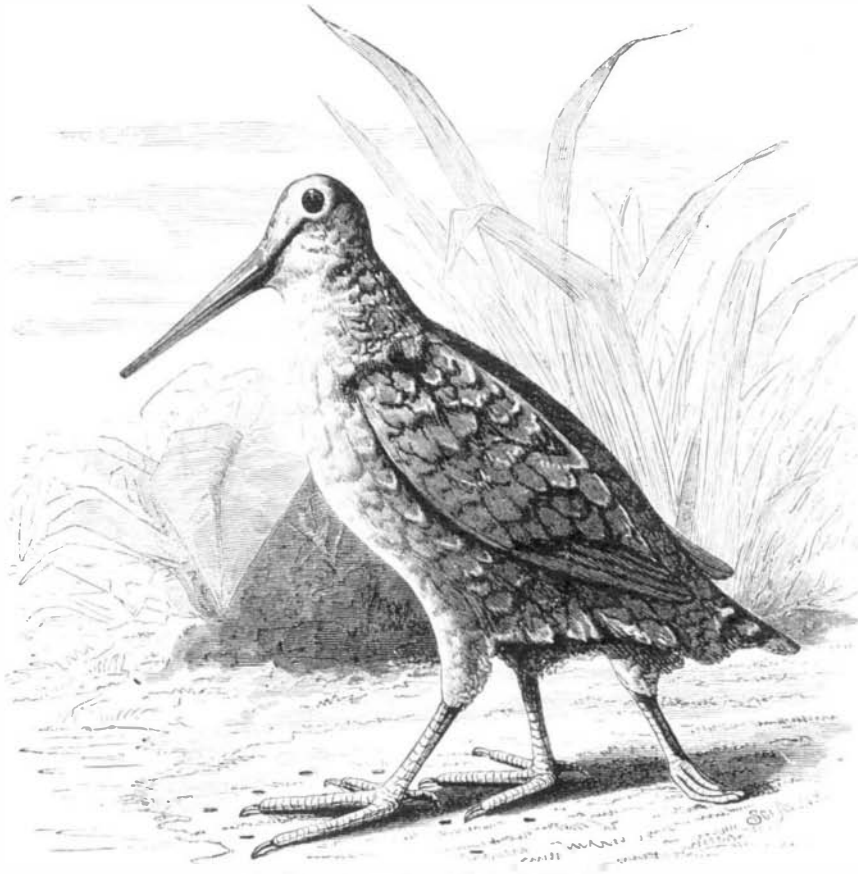
case the "feeding" certainly did not fatten. "It may be," Mr. Henderson remarks in the *Gardener's Monthly*, "that our American flies were not so nutritious as the English 'meat,' though certainly ours was the more natural food of the two; but, as corroborating the test of Mr. Darwin, it failed."

STUDIES FROM THE BRIGHTON AQUARIUM.

To wander at ease among the many strange and beautiful forms of life which animate the world of waters, watching the mysterious habits and doings of creatures as different as they well can be from those with which we are most familiar, is a pleasure and a profit which have been reserved for our own times, and which can be nowhere more conveniently or completely studied than at the Brighton Aquarium. In our engraving different subjects are indicated by numbers, as follows: 1. Electric ray fish. 2. Sea horses. 3. Fife fish. 4. Bear crabs. 5. Star fish. 6. Muscle. 7. Anemones.

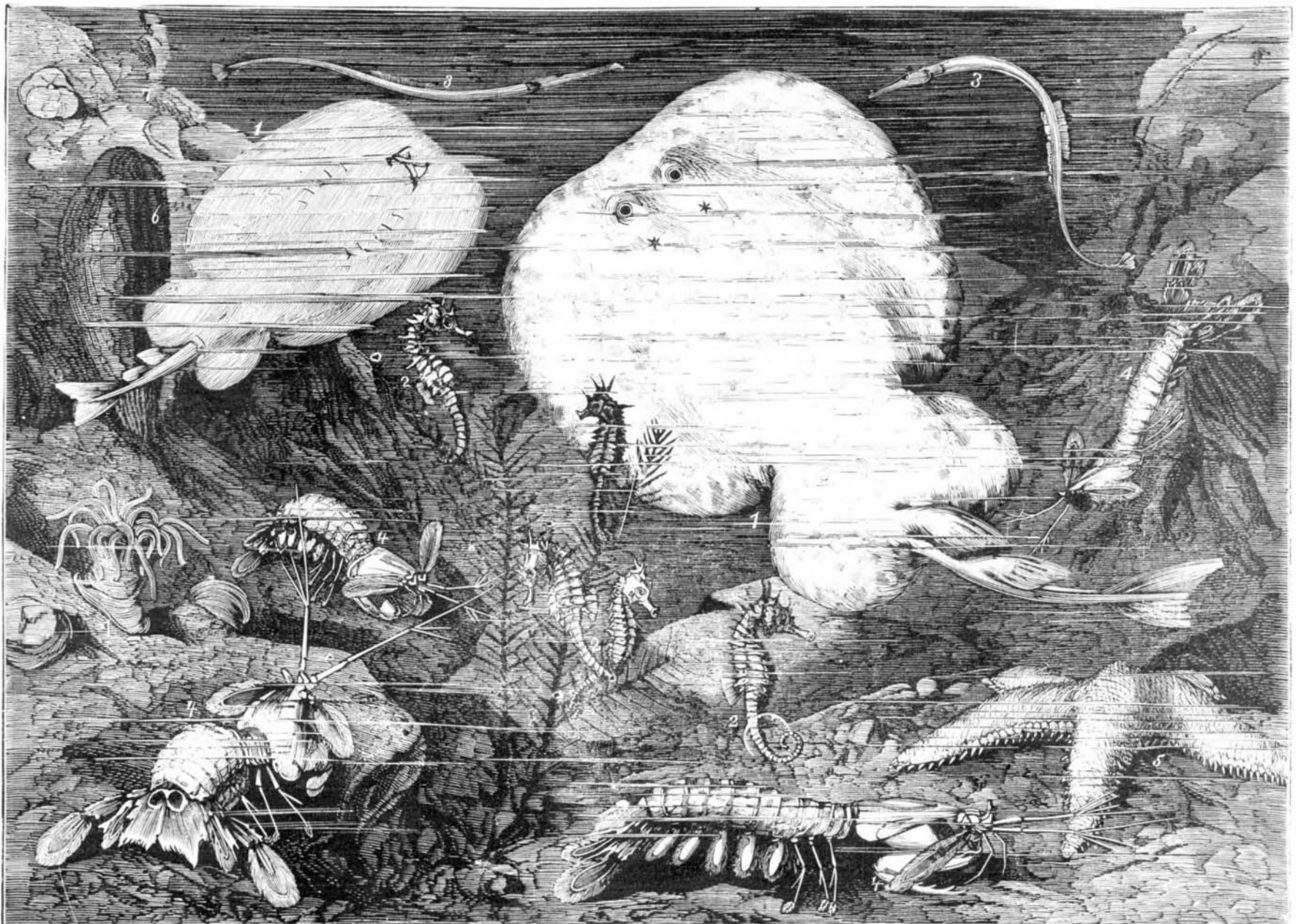
Remarkable Mortality of Fish.

The extraordinary phenomenon displayed on the Florida coast, by which not only the coast waters, but as far out as 150 miles into the Gulf, have been rendered so poisonous as to kill the fish and create a pestilential stench in bays and harbors where the floating carcasses collect, should receive a thorough investigation. We have seen no other explanation of the poisoning than that it comes from inland waters—the everglades prominently—and penetrates the Gulf in strata of dark reddish water, which kills all the surface fish as soon as it reaches them, and even far beyond any apparent contact. This poisonous outflow is stated to have been nearly fatal to the fish trade between Florida and Havana—the smacks finding it almost impossible to select a route in which the fish in their wells are not destroyed by the poison. The Key West *Key* says: "The smack George Storrs, Capt Zeb Allen, attempted to run to the westward in hopes of escaping the deadly waters, and when 50 miles west of Tortugas, in 25 fathoms of water, lost its whole fare of fish in a very short time. He describes the poisoned water to the south and west of him as far as he could see." Fifty miles west of the Tortugas would make the locality indicated 150 west of Cape Florida, and not very far from mid-gulf.



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difference between the one hundred plants that had been "fed," and the one hundred (under the wire netting) that had not been "fed." Both lots had made a splendid growth, and were the admiration of scores of visitors. Mr. Henderson never omitted an opportunity to ask professional horticulturists for their opinion, and the verdict invariably was that both lots were identical, as near as could be. In this



STUDIES FROM THE TANKS OF THE BRIGHTON AQUARIUM.