

The Feroocious Frog.

The London *Telegraph* relates the following story of the curious propensity of the frog, alleged to have been discovered during the draining of some huge carp ponds upon Count Schaafgotsche's estate of Warmbrunn. Upon transferring the fish from these preserves to baskets, for the purpose of conveying them to tanks wherein they might disport themselves while their old familiar quarters were being cleansed, it was observed that frogs were clinging to backs of many of the larger carp. Most of the fish thus beridden were blind, the frogs' fore feet being found firmly fixed in the eye sockets of their victims.

Interrogated respecting this strange phenomenon, the chief pond keeper told our contemporary's informant that, according to his experience, extending over several years, frogs were the deadliest enemies with which carp had to contend, and caused an annual mortality among the fish under his care of from 3 to 4 per cent of their total number. The frog's object in bestriding the carp, he said, was to feed upon the slimy matter that so frequently forms a sort of spongy crust on the heads and backs of the older fish; and, once settled in their favorite seat, they speedily succeeded in gouging their finny steeds, which, when blinded, being unable to look out for their food, soon perished of hunger. How tightly these voracious batrachians hold on to their living pastures was exemplified by the pond master, who picked up a carp weighing two pounds and a half, and held it suspended in the air by one of the hind legs of a frog perched upon its back in the manner above described. Carps thus frog ridden to death begin to turn yellow on the third day after the parasitical croaker has taken his seat, rapidly waste away, and generally die within a fortnight from the commencement of their martyrdom. In clear water it is pretended that they can espy their nimble foe as he prepares to spring upon them, and by a timely wriggle often escape his attack; but in dim and slimy old ponds, like those of Count Schaafgotsche, they too frequently fall a victim to his saltatory skill and merciless appetite.

Alaska Seal Skins.

During one week recently 950 casks of Alaska seal skins arrived here by the Pennsylvania Railroad. They, with 450 casks more to come, were going to London to be dressed for market. The consignment contained about 92,500 skins, and was valued at nearly \$1,000,000. The cost of freight to this point was almost \$600 for a carload of forty casks. The skins are tied in oblong bundles and pickled in salt. It requires eight skins to make a full sack, and they have to be dressed and dyed by London furriers and then reshipped to this country.

THE CORAL SIGNET OF THE KING OF ITALY.

Among the beautiful pieces of coral exhibited by Messrs. Mazza, Guiseppe Figli, from Torredel Greco, near Naples, at the Berlin International Fisheries Exhibition, was a branch of coral weighing eleven pounds, valued at \$3,000, and another branch, in three colors—white, pink, and red—and which has been in the hands of the family for two hundred years. Further, a necklace valued at \$6,000, and, finally, the beautiful coral signet represented in the annexed engraving, for which we are indebted to the *Leipziger Illustrirte*



THE CORAL SIGNET OF THE KING OF ITALY.

Zeitung. The signet is cut from a bright-red piece of coral, and is a representation of the royal family of Italy. On the top we find the portrait of the late King Victor Emmanuel, below him, at the right, the present Queen Marguerite, at the left the present King Humbert, and below the latter two their son, the Crown Prince, surrounded by flowers and emblems. The firm of Mazza presented this signet to the King, who accepted it, but desired to have it exhibited at the Berlin Exhibition before taking permanent possession of it.

THE MOLLUSKS AT THE BERLIN FISHERY EXHIBITION.

We have given illustrations of various parts of the Berlin Fishery Exhibition, and of the animals exhibited there, and now we add another cut representing the "mollusca."

Fig. 1 represents the *Rhizostoma aldrovandii*, whose transparent disk, ornamented with blue, violet and scarlet stripes, attains a diameter of two feet. A series of transparent gelatinous members are suspended from the under side of the disk, and carry the stomach of the animal, which terminates in eight wonderfully fine tentacles. By contracting the disk or bell the animal can propel itself and can change the direction of its movements. The specimen we have represented is the first of its kind that was ever brought to Berlin alive, and has given opportunity to observe very many of its peculiarities. It constantly remains above the opening through which the clear water containing a surplus of oxygen is admitted into the tank.

In Fig. 2 the most beautiful representative of the class of medusæ, known as the *Turris digitalis*, is shown, and resembles a balloon woven of the finest and most transparent of materials. The dark spots in the interior represent the organs of generation, which are of a strawberry-red color. The tentacles are of a glaring white, and have an ordinary length of about one to one and a half inches, but can be lengthened to eight or nine inches in an instant.

The *Cydroppe brevicostata* (Fig. 3) has not been so profusely provided with ornamental appendages as the other members of the medusæ family. The development of the medusæ is highly interesting and instructive, on account of the changes which take place in its generation. The egg passes from the female organ in an infusorial form, and swims about in the ocean a short time by means of the hairs that cover it, and finally attaches itself to some sea plant, rock, etc. Here it develops itself into a polypus provided with tentacles. In a short time contractions take place, so that the animal represents a series of flat glass cups or saucers placed above each other, and finally each of these cups is separated from the main body and is an independent animal. Before the discoveries of Ehrenberg the above polypus had been treated as being a distinct kind of animal and belonging to a certain class.

A most peculiar inhabitant of the ocean is the *Tethys fimbria*. It has a series of knotted rudimentary branches, containing the gills, on the back. The head consists of a large cape with two side wings, called the sails, and containing the eyes; and the mouth consists of a funnel-shaped opening under the cape. The parts shown on the back of the animal drop off as soon as they are touched, and have vitality for a short time.

We are forced to place the wool-crab, Fig. 5 (*Dromia*



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