

men in his mayonnaise or patty. In England, the crab is not greatly esteemed by good liver as an article of food, though vast numbers are eaten; the crab's red-coated companion being preferred by all cooks and *bon vivants* as more ornamental and useful than his cheaper self. But in America a soft-shelled variety is regarded as a great dainty, and devoured by everybody in the proper season.

The changes the crab undergoes at different periods of its life are very remarkable; its appearance in its youngest and oldest stages being so different as almost to make the casual observer believe it is another animal. The aquarium, even on a small scale, as a source of amusement and study, has not been popular among us for more than fifteen or twenty years. The difficulty of preserving fish, &c. alive, and in a condition of life in which their habits could be observed, was so great before the glass tanks were thought of, that Fleming, writing in 1815, said—

"The aquatic animals are the most difficult to preserve in a living state; they have consequently presented so many obstacles to an examination of their manners that naturalists remain comparatively ignorant of their history."

The reverse of this is the case now. The glass tank, with a few vegetables growing in it, has removed all difficulties; and now, for a few shillings, anybody may possess that never-failing source of interest and amusement, a small aquarium. And from the peculiarities of their position, no animals' habits of life can more easily be observed than those of the aquatic tribes.

The name of the tanks in which fish and other marine or fresh water animals and vegetables are placed is not a very happy choice. But *aquarium* is now of such universal application that a change for the better is almost out of the question; though marine vivarium would be etymologically more accurate, as aquarium suggests *Aquarius*, the water-carrier of the Zodiac. Vivarium conveys the notion of a receptacle for live stock, and by the addition of the prefix marine the name is made complete. Almost all our knowledge of the inhabitants of water we owe to glass, which has done more for science than anything else. The best way of expressing our acknowledgments of indebtedness to this handmaid of the

sciences is, probably, in applying it to fresh uses. The great marine tanks at Brighton may be enrolled among these.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY.

THE subject of our cartoon is the distinguished man of science, whose reputation is already European. Thomas Henry Huxley was born at Ealing, in Middlesex, in the year 1825, was educated at Ealing School, and subsequently studied medicine at the medical school of the Charing Cross Hospital. In the year 1846, H.M.S. *Rattlesnake* was despatched on a surveying cruise to the South Pacific and Torres Straits. Mr. Huxley was appointed assistant-surgeon, and remained with the vessel during the whole of the cruise, returning to England in 1850. Four years later he succeeded Mr. Forbes as Professor of Natural History at the Royal School of Mines in Jermyn-street; he was also made Hunterian Professor of Comparative Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons. Mr. Huxley's works have the highest scientific merit and originality, but they are not of a kind for review in our pages. The best known to general readers are his "Oceanic Hydrozoa," "Man's Place in Nature," "Lectures on Comparative Anatomy," and "Lessons in Elementary Physiology." The Professor is also a frequent contributor to the *Transactions and Journals of the Royal Linnæan, Geological, Zoological, and other learned societies*. He is one of our most active men of science, and has made himself widely celebrated by his dissertations on "bones and stones, and such-like things."

THE SAGE OF CHAPPAQUA.

By JOHN C. DENT.

TO most readers of ONCE A WEEK, the title prefixed to this paper will fail to convey any definite idea as to the individuality of the personage indicated by such title. Possibly, as the word "Chappaqua" has a smack of the aboriginal red man of the forest about it, it may be inferred that the writer proposes to furnish a biographical sketch of some ancestor or collateral relative of Mr. Longfellow's Hiawatha. But to such readers as have resided in America, or are familiar with American matters, "the Sage of Chappaqua" will at once be recognized as the colloquial appellation of a gentleman



"BONES AND STONES, AND SUCH-LIKE THINGS."

