

NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

The Vernacular Names of Common Fishes.—If confusion is to be avoided it must be borne in mind that very often a vernacular name is applied to a different species at almost every different fishing port. The following analysis is intended to show the applications of vernacular names which have come within my own experience or reading.

*Names used by Plymouth Fishermen.**Acanthopteri :*

Capros aper	Cuckoo.
Trigla lyra	Piper.
Trigla hirundo.....	Tub.
Trigla cuculus.....	Red gurnard.
Trigla gurnardus	Grey gurnard.
Zeus faber	John Dorey.
Pagellus centrodontus	Bream (when young, Chad).
Pagellus erythrinus.....	Snapper.
Labrax lupus	Bass.
Caranx trachurus	Scad.
Callionymus lyra.....	Miller's thumb.
Atherina presbyter	Smelt.

Anacanthini :

Rhombus maximus	Turbot.
Rhombus lævis	Brill.
Solea vulgaris	Sole.
Solea variegata	Thickback.
Pleuronectes microcephalus	Merry sole.
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice.
Pleuronectes flesus	Flounder.
Pleuronectes limanda	Dab.
Arnoglossus megastoma	Megrim.
Arnoglossus laterna	Scald-back or scald-fish.
Gadus morrhua	Cod.
Gadus æglefinus	Haddock.
Gadus pollachius	Pollack.
Gadus merlangus.....	Whiting.
Gadus luscus	Pouting or whiting-pout.
Merluccius vulgaris	Hake.
Molva vulgaris.....	Ling.

Physostomi.

Conger vulgaris	Conger.
Clupea pilchardus	Pilchard.
Clupea harengus	Herring.
Belone vulgaris	Gar-fish.

The technical names given above are in all cases those used by Day in his *Fishes of Great Britain and Ireland, 1880—1884*.

The following are the names given by Yarrell for some of the species where vulgar nomenclature is the most uncertain.

Names given by Yarrell, British Fishes, 1836.

<u>Species.</u>	<u>Name preferred.</u>	<u>Synonyms given.</u>
<i>Pleuronectes microcephalus</i> ...	Lemon dab, or smooth dab ...	Smear-dab; sandfleuk, <i>Edinb.</i> ; town dab, <i>Hastings</i> ; Mary sole, <i>Devonshire</i> .
<i>Arnoglossus megastoma</i>	The whiff	Carter, <i>Cornwall</i> .
<i>Arnoglossus laterna</i>	The scaldfish	Megrim, <i>Cornwall</i> ; smooth sole.
<i>Solea lascaris</i>	Lemon sole... ..	French sole, <i>Sussex coast</i> .
<i>Solea variegata</i>	Variegated sole.	
<i>Atherina presbyter</i>	Atherine or sandsmelt.	

With these may be compared the vernacular names given by Couch.

Names given by Couch in his Fishes of the British Islands, 1864.

<u>Species.</u>	<u>Name preferred.</u>	<u>Synonyms given.</u>
<i>Pleuronectes microcephalus</i> ...	Smear dab	Lemon dab, lemon sole, queen, smooth dab.
<i>Arnoglossus megastoma</i>	Carter.....	Mary sole, queen's sole?, lan- thorn fish, whiff.
<i>Arnoglossus megastoma</i>	Sail fluke (described as a distinct species).	
<i>Arnoglossus laterna</i>	Megrim	Scald-fish.
<i>Solea lascaris</i>	Lemon sole.....	Sand-sole.
<i>Solea variegata</i>	Variegated sole	Thickback, bastard sole, red- backed sole.
<i>Solea minuta</i>	Solenette	Little sole.
<i>Atherina presbyter</i>	Atherine	Smelt, sand smelt, guid (mean- ing white) in <i>W. Cornwall</i> .
<i>Gadus luscus</i>	Bib	Whiting pout, blens, blinds.

As will be seen from the above, *Pleuronectes microcephalus* is a species whose vernacular name is highly variable. In Plymouth I have never heard it called by any other name than "merry sole;" this is obviously the same as "Mary sole," which Yarrell says is applied to it in Devonshire, and by which it is known on the West Coast of Ireland (Co. Kerry). In the neighbourhood of the Firth of Forth this fish is invariably called the "lemon sole," a name for it which is mentioned by Couch. In London also it is sold under this name. Plymouth fishmongers sell *Arnoglossus megastoma*

as the lemon sole, while the fishermen of that port always call it the "megrim."

Couch gives the name Mary sole to *Arnoglossus megastoma* and megrim to *A. laterna*. As he lived at Polperro it is possible that the names are used there as he gives them, for I am informed by Mr. Dunn, of Mevagissey, that the names are applied there in quite a different way from that in which they are used at Polperro. At Mevagissey, according to Mr. Dunn, the name megrim is quite unknown, and the two species of *Arnoglossus* are called, "carter" and "scaldfish," or either of them may be called the "lanthorn;" the *Pl. microcephalus* is called the "butter-fish," but lately a few call it the "merry sole," this name having apparently been recently introduced from Plymouth. The name lemon sole appears to be confined to *Solea lascaris*. It is noticeable that both Yarrell and Couch assert that *Arnoglossus laterna* is called the megrim in Cornwall, although it is quite certain that among Plymouth fishermen megrim always means *A. megastoma*. But Couch alone ascribes the name Mary sole to *A. megastoma*, and as both Yarrell and Plymouth custom agree in giving this name to *Pl. microcephalus* perhaps Couch made a mistake.

Two flat-fishes which are common on the Scottish coasts seem to be entirely absent from the coasts of Devon and Cornwall; at least I have not yet met with a specimen of either. These are *Pleuronectes cynoglossus* and *Hippoglossoides limandoides*. The former is called the "witch," the latter the "long rough dab," on the shores of the Firth of Forth, while the former is usually called the "pole flounder" by British naturalists.

All the fishes I have given in the list of names used by Plymouth fishermen have a value in the market as food with four exceptions, namely, *Capros aper*, *Callionymus lyra*, *Arnoglossus laterna*, and *Caranx trachurus*.

The Netherlands Zoological Station.—Professor A. A. W. Hubrecht has kindly furnished some particulars relative to the history and work of this institution. The Netherlands Zoological Association recognised in 1875 the necessity of having an establishment on the Dutch coast suitable for anatomical and microscopical investigation of marine Fauna and Flora. A Committee was appointed to take the steps necessary for realising this scheme, but reported early in the following year that a suitable locality was not to be had in those places on the Dutch coast where a zoological station might be built with a prospect of success, and that the funds at the disposal of the Association did not permit of a permanent building being erected on a suitable scale. Accordingly, it was determined, on the

recommendation of the committee, which consisted of Drs. Hoffmann, Hoek, and Hubrecht, to purchase a movable wooden building which might be transported every season to such a locality as might be deemed desirable. The necessary funds were raised by public subscription, and in July, 1876, the station was placed for the first time on the great dyke near the seaport of Helder, opposite to the island of Texel. The work was continued for eight weeks, and was greatly assisted by a small steamer lent for the purpose by the Minister of Marine. Since this date the station has been erected at different points of the Dutch coast, such as Welfzyl, Terschelling, Nieuwe Diep, Flushing, Bergen op Zoom, Tholen, and this year at Enkhuiren on the Zuyder Zee. The original object of the station was purely scientific, and it stood at its commencement in no official relation to the Netherlands Fishery Commission, although the latter body from the first gave it encouragement and supported its applications for Government aid. Before long, however, the services of the skilled naturalists who directed the station were requisitioned for practical purposes, and in 1881, '82, and '83 elaborate investigations on the life-history and development of the oyster were undertaken by the Zoological Station, and the results were published in a separate volume under the title *Recherches sur l'huitre et l'Ostreaculture*, Leiden, 1883-4.

In 1886 the Association was brought into closer relations with the Government, being entrusted with the disposal of a grant from the funds of the Fisheries Commission, which was spent in the investigation of the life-history and development of the anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*). The results of this investigation were published in the report of the Fisheries Commission for 1886, and included Wenckeback's account of the anchovy.

Recently the Netherlands Government has appointed Dr. P. P. C. Hoek as scientific investigator of the Fisheries, his duties being to investigate such fishery problems as may be brought under his notice by the Fisheries Commissioners. Dr. Hoek was from the foundation of the Zoological Station one of its most active members, and secretary of the managing committee, and on his appointment the Netherlands Zoological Society, the founders and owners of the marine station, placed the transportable building with its inventory and apparatus at the service of the newly-constituted official, on the condition that its members should always have access to the working tables and should enjoy such facilities as the naturalist might be able to afford them. Now that a definite relation between the Fisheries Commission and the Marine Station has been established, it is hoped that a permanent building may be erected, probably at Nieuwe Diep, and that the scientific knowledge of the Dutch

Fisheries may with its help be greatly increased. In the meantime the scientific work of the Dutch Station has been, considering its limited accommodation, remarkable. Although inconvenient in some respects a movable station has the great advantage of enabling the naturalists working in it to extend their researches over a wider area, and to study more perfectly the distribution of marine animals along the coast. The reports of the work done at the station have appeared yearly in the Dutch language.