

To preserve fish indefinitely in glass jars, observe the following directions: first, select a jar of the proper size to accommodate the specimen amply, without bending or distorting it in any way; put in the fish with the tail down in nearly all cases; the tail may often rest upon the bottom of the jar, or the fish may be suspended from the hook which is now found in the stopple of the modern museum jars; cover the fish completely with the alcoholic mixture referred to in the closing sentence of paragraph 4; discoloration of the alcohol is a sign that its preservative power is weakened and calls for a renewal; fishes in alcohol will never make a good show unless the liquid is kept clear and clean. A label giving the name of the fish, place of its capture, and name of its captor, should be tied on the neck of the jar by means of a piece of narrow tape passed through holes punched in the ends of the paper. The jars must have accurately ground glass stopples. It is best to use no kind of sealing wax to coat the joint of the stopple; simply wipe the glass perfectly dry, close the jar properly, and there will be little danger of evaporation. Do not let the direct sunlight strike your jars, and keep them well removed from stoves, registers, and the like.

NATIONAL MUSEUM, WASHINGTON, D. C., *December, 1881.*

20.—PLANTING AND CATCH OF SHAD IN COOSA RIVER, ALABAMA.

By CHAS. W. SMILEY.

A report of the number of shad taken at Wetumpka, on the Coosa River, has been received from Mr. Cabot Lull, which is as follows: In 1879, 1,000; in 1880, 600; in 1881, 55; in 1882, 35; in 1883, 22. These fish were caught in eight traps at that place.

Concerning this report, which was forwarded by Mr. T. S. Doron, of Montgomery, Ala., the latter remarks: "I think it is as accurate as can be obtained. Mr. Lull seems to think that the shad had disappeared. I know that the rise in the water has prevented the catch of shad during the past three years. Those caught last year were large fish, some weighing four pounds each."

In connection with the above it is interesting to know what deposits of young have been made in this vicinity by the United States Fish Commission. The deposits in 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1879 were as follows:

July 11, 1876, in Alabama River at Montgomery.....	90,000
May 29, 1877, in Tallapoosa River at Montgomery.....	75,000
June 9, 1878, in Tallapoosa River at Salisbury.....	50,000
June 13, 1879, in Coosa River at Lebanon.....	45,000

In 1880 and 1881 there were no deposits made.

UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION, *May 14, 1883.*