ripe and they can be treated by artificial impregnation. I doubt whether
the matter of furnishing hiding-places for the fish is particularly im-
portant. This, however, can be managed by bringing in floating sea-
weeds to form a surface over the water and serve to oxygenate it.
This floating green scum cannot in any way injure the water or fish.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 5 and 14, 1883.

185.—METHOD OF CATCHING CARP WITH A HOOK.

By PAUL QUATTLEBAUM.

[From a letter to Chas. W. Smiley.]

I use a beardless hook for two reasons. It can be taken from the
mouth of a fish with greater ease and does less injury. I often catch
carp for visitors to examine, and then return them to their native ele-
ment. They may also be removed to other ponds in good condition.
For catching small fry I use no cork; for large fish I prefer one, with
lead enough on the line to sink the hook a few inches in the water, but
they will take it at any depth. Late in the afternoon or early in the
morning is the best time of warm weather. When the sun is shining
brightly, and its rays strike deep down into the waters, the carp retires
from his feeding-grounds and remains at rest until the shade of the
evening lures him from his quiet retreat. On warm cloudy days, when
trained to artificial feeding, the carp may be caught at any hour, but
less readily about noon. It is a waste of time to angle for them in cold
weather. It is well known that the carp declines all food in freezing
weather, and that the appetite varies with the temperature of the water
to a certain degree. In my ponds, near Leesville, I can catch either
kind of carp as above stated from April to December. I train them to
come to the surface of the water for food so as to enjoy the pleasure
of seeing them scramble for it. The cheapest of light bread, made of mid-
lings or shorts, expressly for the fish, is what I use. The same answers
for baiting the hook, but a piece of waffle, cut the right size for the fish
you desire to catch, is better, being tougher and not so easily taken from
the hook by the fish. I first collect the fish together by throwing in a
handful of small bits of bread—say one-half inch square—then I drop in
my hook, attached to a strong line at the end of a suitable cane, and in
less than a minute I am almost sure to bring a carp to grass. More time
is generally consumed in putting the bait on the hook and taking the
fish off of it than in luring him to take the bait.

The young fish hatched early last May are now 5 or 6 inches long.

LEESVILLE, S. C., July 30, 1884.