



MISS EWING IN THE GARDEN OF THE HOUSE SPECIALLY BUILT FOR HER.
From a Photo. by Chubb Studio, Gorin, Mo.

constructed hammock 15ft. in length. Miss Ewing is now able, for the first time in her life, to sleep without curling herself up or having some part of her body uncovered. As she is not quite certain that she has stopped growing everything has been made a little bit larger than is necessary at present.

For, unlike most of her sex, Miss Ewing does not specially dread growing old: it is growing taller that is her bugbear. Being now well off she has settled down to enjoy peace and comfort in the old home of her childhood, where all her relatives and neighbours look up to her.

XXIV.—AQUATIC WONDERS.

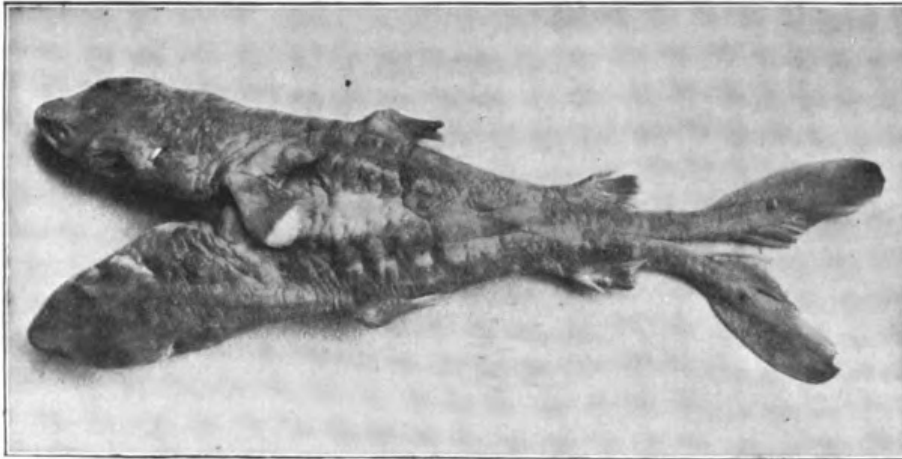
CALIFORNIA is well known, of course, as the land of the big and the marvellous, a reputation shared in some degree by the whole Pacific Slope. But in an apparent recent effort to live up to its reputation the Coast has surpassed itself.

An enthusiastic and very expert fisherman of Tacoma, Washington, a Mr. Frederick Miller, recently planned to do some deep-water fishing in the waters of Puget Sound. He rowed out some distance from the city and dropped over his line, fortunately a very strong one, letting it play out about 300ft. He was angling for black bass, and had for that reason selected one of their favourite haunts. The tide ran very strongly, and the angler was compelled to use a 2lb. sinker, with live herring for bait, some 8in. or 10in. long.

Suddenly, and without warning, there was

a tremendous commotion below. The boat began to rock violently and the water was churned into foam. Before its startled occupant had time to reflect there sprang out of the water near the boat a huge monster, with *two heads and two tails!* One of its throats—that sounds mythological—had swallowed the bait, and its fellow-throat appeared to be yawning wide for its share.

No attack was made, however, and the shore being luckily near the fisherman soon landed his boat, a necessary first step toward landing the fish. Then ensued a tremendous and exhausting struggle. Stout and strong as was the line, it more than once threatened to part. But finally skilful handling landed the fish in very shallow water, where a pole could be used by an assistant, and a rope was drawn around the object. When it



From a]

THE "SIAMESE TWINS" TIGER SHARK.

[Photograph.

finally wore itself out a careful examination and measurement were made. The captive was a "tiger shark," just 8ft. long and 18in. thick, and having two perfectly formed heads and tails united to a single trunk. This extraordinary specimen was taken to a taxidermist in Tacoma, where it was mounted and where it of course attracted the greatest curiosity. The accompanying photograph was taken soon after the capture, and the drawing was made for a Coast paper.

A few days later Newport Beach, a short distance from Santa Ana, in Southern California, furnished its sensation in the shape of an apparent sea serpent, that proved, however, to be an "oar fish," which is about as rare. And the visitor certainly showed the wisdom of the serpent in timing its arrival on Washington's birthday, as if determined to link its fame with that of him alone among mortal men whose reputed veracity would be equal or, at least, most nearly equal to the strain of a sea serpent itself!

And this specimen, while not literally a sea serpent, was one to all appearance and a marvellous curiosity. Experts, among them the recognised great authority on fish, President Jordan, of Stanford University, have pronounced it an "oar fish" (*clupea harensus*), an extremely rare member of the herring family, sometimes called "king of the herring." Two specimens of these strange fish, according to Dr. Jordan, have been preserved by the Japanese Government in the Imperial University at Tokio, but this is the first he has heard of on the Pacific Coast.

Indeed, it is said that not a score have been seen in a century, and that there is no record of a live one before the Newport arrival. They are a very deep sea fish, and, as indicating this fact, in all previous cases the flesh of those found has been greatly decomposed. But to make its arrival still more remarkable this California find was alive and struggling on the beach, though soon killed to prevent its escape. It measured a little over 21ft. in length and was at one point 18in. high as it lay along the sand, with an average width of 8in., and a tapering tail, good sea serpent proportions! That it was, except to the trained scientific eye, a veritable serpent the photograph conclusively shows.



From a Photo. by]

THE OAR FISH, WHICH WAS MISTAKEN FOR A SEA SERPENT. MICHIGAN [G. T. Peabody.