

be enough to begin with. You might then have from 2,000 to 3,000 a year for distribution to the hospitals, &c.

The propagable leeches sell for higher prices than the common-sized ones. I think that I paid 20 francs [\$4] per hundred for the best of mine. They may be cheaper than that. I suppose the best thing to do is to get the price-lists from the different Bordeaux establishments, through the mediation of the United States consular agency at that place, so that we can see what kinds of leeches they sell, as well as their prices. The Becharde Brothers, rue Fondadège, Bordeaux, from whom I got my "*vaches*," gave me entire satisfaction, both in regard to the quality of the leeches furnished and their healthiness.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 17, 1883.*

### 89.—EDIBLE QUALITIES OF CARP.

By EDWARD THOMPSON.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I enjoyed reading the different opinions of men on the eating qualities of the carp.\* I would venture to say it would be the same with beef, pork, or any other fish, no matter where it came from. It would be an utter impossibility to take any fish out of a muddy hole and expect it to taste like a fish out of a pond with pure, clear water, such as you could stoop down and drink out of. One fact which cannot be got over is that different food and water will make either animal, fowl, or fish taste differently, no matter where they come from or what their names are. I once sent Mr. Eugene G. Blackford two brook trout, about one-half pound each, and asked him his opinion as to flavor, and he pronounced them as good, if not better, than any he had ever eaten. Why? Because they were fed on the natural food for trout. Again, I have eaten trout that tasted very distinctively of liver. Why? Because they were fed on liver, &c. It is the food and water which makes the carp have so many different tastes. I might ask one more question. Can you find two even in one family to whom things taste alike? It is not so in mine.

The carp is the best fish I know of for workingmen and mechanics, who rarely lack an appetite, and who will always consider the fish good when they can get it. My personal opinion is that it is a very superior fish, and I will even go so far as to say that I prefer it to trout.

ST. JOHNLAND, SUFFOLK CO., N. Y., *February 15, 1884.*

\* Notes on the edible qualities of carp, &c., by Chas. W. Smiley. Bull. F. C., 1883, p. 305.