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THE COMMON CARP.—*Cyprinus Carpio.*

It is not known when Carp were first brought into England, but they are mentioned in the "Boke of St. Albans," which was printed by Wynkyn de Worde, in 1486. The old concept is certainly incorrect, which says,

"Turkis, Carps, Hops, Pickered, and Bees,
Came into England all in one year."

In both turkies and hops were unknown till upwards of twenty years after the date above mentioned. In this country, the Carp inhabits ponds, lakes, and rivers; preferring in the lakes, those parts where the current is not strong, and stirring best where the ground is soft and marshy. They probably eat scarcely anything in winter, and are supposed to bury themselves in mud. White, in his Natural History of Solburie, says: "In the park of the Black Bear Inn, Reading, is a stream or canal running under the stables and out into the fields on the other side of the road. In this water are many Carps, which he retires about in night, being fed by tendlers, who secure themselves by tossing them bread; but as soon as the weather grows at all severe, these fishes are no longer seen, because they retire under the stables, where they remain till the return of Spring. Mr. Jans says of some Carp and Trout, which were kept by him in a small piece of water, "They were soon reconciled to their situation, and ate halibut potatoes in considerable quantities; and the Carp seemed to have lost their original shyness, eating in my presence without any scruple." This fish, when out of water, is exceedingly tenacious of life. It is said to be a practice in Holland to keep Carp alive for three or four weeks, by putting them in a cool place with wet moss in a net, and feeding them with bread soaked in milk. The second is refreshed, raw and then, water being thrown over it. Carp are in season for the table from October to April; and, as Mr. Yarrell remarks, "they are greatly subjected to the rook for the extraction in which they are kept."

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