

Their method, which is purely aboriginal, is as follows:— a small hut of boughs is built on the ice and covered so as to exclude the rays of the sun. Beneath the shelter a hole is cut, about a foot across. An artificial minnow, carved of wood and weighted with less lead, is attached to a string and lowered into the water, where it is given a lifelike motion by jerking the cord which is usually fastened to the end of a short stick. When the fish attempts to seize the lure it is speared.”

Under the separate caption, “Fish Effigies of Shell,” the writer makes mention of the finding of such shell fish lures just mentioned.

#### FISHING WITH NARCOTICS

A unique phase of Indian fishing was that of poisoning the catch through narcotics contained in plants.

In his “Useful Wild Plants of the United States,” Charles F. Saunders states that “wild plants were used in a method long practised by the Indians. The plants in question contain in their juices narcotic poisons which, stirred into the water of ponds, deep pools, or running streams temporarily dammed, containing fish, stupefy them without killing them, and cause them to float inert to the surface, where they may be easily gathered into baskets. No ill effects seem to appear from eating fish so poisoned. After the narcotic plants were thrown into pools of standing water, the dazed fish would float up to the top and had then only to be picked up. If placed in fresh water, they would soon revive.”

Saunders mentions two such narcotic plants used by the Indians, the Soap-plant, (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, Kunth.), and Turkey-Mullein, (*Croton setigerus*, Hook.).

The Indians of Wisconsin have been known to use narcotic plants to stupefy fish and thus facilitate their capture, but this method is but infrequently used by them and has been identified as of very recent usage.

This statement has been verified by Huron H. Smith, curator of botany, Milwaukee public museum. Mr. Smith informed the writer that although “turkey-mullein” is a native plant in this state, nevertheless he believes our Wisconsin Indians to have been ignorant regarding its nar-