

STOCKHOLM, "VENICE OF THE NORTH"



Although Stockholm is sometimes called the "Venice of the North," because it is built partly on islands, in appearance it is quite different from the island city of Italy. Stockholm's islands are rocky and wooded, with narrow quiet waterways between them. The photograph shows the northern part of Staden, the ancient nucleus of the city, now an island in the central part. In the distance, on the left bank of the river, is the great rectangular pile of the Royal Palace, a handsome building in the style of the Italian Renaissance, a strange link between this cold Scandinavian Venice and its sunny sister city of the south.

Once established as master of his territory, the male stickleback builds his tunnel-shaped nest. Then he assumes his bridegroom's dress of blue and red tints, and invites the female stickleback to share his home and lay her eggs. When the nest is filled, he enters it and mounts guard. If a big fish or even a man's hand approaches, he sallies forth with spines erect to give battle.

There are several species with varying numbers of spines. The common species (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) has three, while the sea stickleback (*Spinachia vulgaris*), which attains a length of 7 inches, is well armed with 15 spines.

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN. Sometimes called the "Venice of the North," the capital of Sweden lies on a group of hilly islands and peninsulas in the midst of fiords and bays, streams and straits. One-seventh of the space within its limits is occupied by water, and in travelling from one part of the city to another, one is as likely to go by water as by road. Many of the streets are so precipitous that lifts or steps are used to get from one street to the next above.

The city falls into three principal sections, as we see from the Norrbro (north bridge), the handsome granite structure which links the modern business quarter to the north (Norrmalm) with the island Staden, where the

old city was founded in 1255. Between Staden and the northern district, with its many fine public buildings, lies the little Island of the Holy Ghost, on which are the new Houses of Parliament.

Looking south toward Staden, we see in a corner of the island the Royal Palace. Near the palace is the oldest church in Stockholm, founded in 1264 and dedicated to St. Nicholas, and beyond this is the Stortorg (great market). West of Staden, on a little island, is the Riddarholm Church. Except when a member of the royal family dies, no services are held here; since the time of Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632) this church has been the burial-place of the royal family. From the south end of Staden two iron bridges lead to Södermalm, the old southern quarter whose steep rocky heights rise 120 feet above the water's edge.

An Open-air Museum

Looking east from the Norrbro we see another island, Skeppsholm, the headquarters of the Swedish navy. Beyond it rise the beautiful wooded heights of the island of the Djurgården or Deer Park. Here is Skansen, the picturesque and interesting 70-acre park, illustrating the fauna and flora as well as the habitations and costumes of the peasants in the different parts of Sweden.