feet, by means of a Chinese wooden drum beaten with tubular sticks; the plashing of rain, by means of a drum filled with small stones mounted upon bearings and rotated.

Richard Strauss was born at Munich, Bavaria. At four years he played the piano well, at six he was composing, and at ten he was seriously studying. Up to 1890 his compositions were not unusual, and he was known chiefly through his position as conductor of the Munich opera, rather than as a composer.

His Realism Severely Criticized

From this time on his compositions became increasingly realistic. Storms of criticism, ridicule, and abuse followed the appearance of each new work. However, time and familiarity have done much to reconcile the public to his methods, and his place is now among the foremost composers and conductors of the day. In 1898 he settled in Berlin as conductor of the Royal Opera.

Of Strauss's operas, "Salome" has probably been the most discussed, and his "Rosencavalier" the most liked. His symphonic poems have given rise to violent discussion, but his songs, by their unfailing melodic beauty and delicate charm, have been universally accepted and have given Strauss rank as one of the great lyric masters.

STRAWBERRY. This delicious fruit gets its name from the practice of putting straw round the plants to keep the fruits clean.

A bed of strawberries is seldom kept in bearing more than a year or two. New plants may be obtained from seed, especially for developing new varieties, and from the division of the plant head; but the usual method is to use the new plants set from runners. These are placed about 2 feet apart, with about 3 feet between the rows, on rich well-cultivated ground. After cultivation is discontinued, and usually after the bearing season, the numerous runners loop out from the parent plant and root new plants where they touch the ground.

How the Varieties were Produced

The little wild strawberry of our woods and hedges was the first species cultivated. Species from Chile and elsewhere were introduced later, and by careful crossing the countless varieties of to-day have been produced.

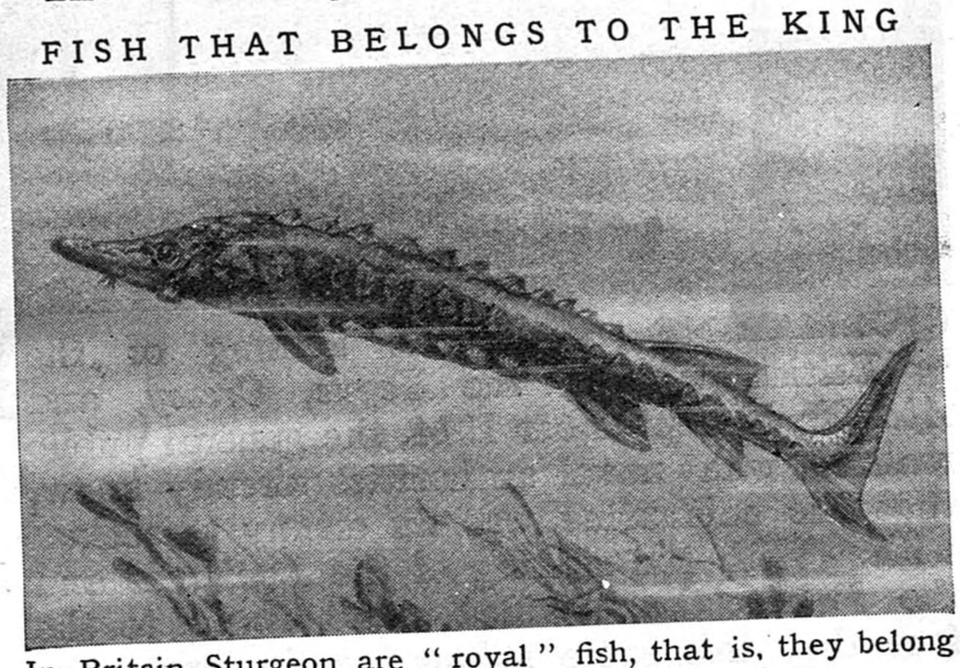
The strawberry belongs to the genus *Fragaria*. The "berry" is botanically not a berry at all, but an enlarged pulpy receptacle in which the very small seed-like *achenia* (the true fruits, are embedded. Hundreds of acres of land are under strawberry cultivation.

STUART. The name of a royal family of Scotland and England. Robert II (ruled 1371–1390), the son of Walter Stewart and Marjory (daughter of Robert the Bruce), was the first Scottish ruler of the line. Robert III, James I, II, III, IV, V, and Mary followed him. Mary Queen of Scots changed the spelling of the name to Stuart.

James VI of Scotland, Mary's son, on the death of Queen Elizabeth, became king of England as James I (1603–25), thus uniting England and Scotland under one crown, though the two countries remained independent in every other respect. Charles I (1625–49) followed James I. The Stuart succession in England was interrupted by the Commonwealth, but was resumed at the Restoration with Charles II (1660–85).

The remaining rulers of the house were

FISH THAT BELONGS TO THE KING



In Britain Sturgeon are "royal" fish, that is, they belong to the Crown if caught in territorial waters.

James II (1685–88), his daughter Mary, who ruled jointly with her husband William III (1688–1702), and Anne (1702–14), Mary's sister, who became queen upon the death of William.

STURGEON. Caviare and one of the best sorts of isinglass are two valuable contributions of the sturgeon to man. Caviare, beloved of the epicure, is prepared from the eggs (roe) which the female lays by the million; and isinglass is made from the inner membrane of the fish's swim-bladder.

Vary Greatly in Size

The sturgeon is a large bulky fish with a long body, a skin covered with five rows of large bony plates, and a conical and tapering snout. There are about 25 species, which vary greatly in size. Specimens 8 to 11 feet long are by no means rare, while one species of the Black and Caspian seas reaches the enormous length of 24 feet and a weight of 2,000 lb. On the other hand, some are rather small, such as the sterlet, which rarely exceeds a length of 3 feet. Most species live in the sea a great part of the year, ascending rivers to spawn, though a few are entirely fresh-water fishes. Sturgeon are found only in the Northern Hemisphere, and occur in greatest abundance in southern Russia, where the fisheries are of immense value. Sturgeon belong to the genus *Acipenser*.

contained in the Easy Reference Fact-Index at the end of this work