

[Undated handbill (1859?) advertising "The performing and talking fish", on exhibition at 191 Piccadilly, London].

Publication/Creation

1859.

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THE
**PERFORMING AND TALKING
FISH.**

An elegantly-appointed Exhibition-Room has been taken for
the public view of this extraordinary animal, at

191, PICCADILLY,

Between St. James's Church and the Egyptian Hall, which
the Proprietor has the honor to announce

IS NOW OPEN.

Admission **ONE SHILLING**; Children Half-price.

It would be in vain to attempt a written description of the wonderful performances of this *Lusus Naturæ*—they must be witnessed to be believed. The Fish possesses a sagacity bordering upon the dominions of reason, understanding thoroughly the conversation addressed to it, and by its vocal responses and amusing gyrations gives evidence of its complete docility and comprehension. Naturalists and other scientific persons have attended its *soirées* in Liverpool and Manchester, and expressed their astonishment and admiration.

The following certificate of JOHN BROWN, Esq., the eminent curator of the Museum of Natural History at Manchester, was published in the "Manchester Examiner and Times," Feb. 19th, 1859.

SIR,—I have examined the animal called the "Talking Fish," now exhibiting in Corporation Street, and have no hesitation in pronouncing it to be the *Phoca Leptonyx*. It is an intelligent creature, and distinctly comprehends what its keeper wishes it to do. I saw it go through the various evolutions with great exactness, which are stated in the bills. It is well worth seeing, as all that is said of it is quite true.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant, JOHN BROWN.
Museum, Peter Street, 18th Feb., 1859.

The Public Press has made it the subject of critical analysis, the result being the highest commendation. See the **CRITICAL NOTICES** of the **LONDON PRESS**.

The Exhibition is open from 11 o'clock, a.m., to 10 o'clock, p.m.

A FASHIONABLE MORNING EXHIBITION

EVERY SATURDAY, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission, 2s. 6d.; Children, 1s. After Six, the usual prices.