

“ with a limpid water which is ejected in im-  
“ pregnation. As soon as the male has leaped  
“ upon the female, he throws his fore-legs  
“ round her breast, and closes them so firmly  
“ that it is impossible with the naked hands to  
“ loose them. The male clasps his fingers be-  
“ tween each other, and presses with the thickest  
“ sides of the thumbs against the breast of  
“ the female; the grasp seems to be involun-  
“ tary and convulsive: they cannot easily be  
“ torn asunder; and they swim, creep, and live  
“ united for some days successively, till the fe-  
“ male has shed her spawn, or eggs. A single  
“ female produces from six to eleven hundred  
“ eggs at a time; and, in general, she throws  
“ them all out together by a single effort, though  
“ sometimes she is an hour in performing this  
“ task; the eggs are impregnated by the insper-  
“ sion of the male seminal fluid upon them as  
“ they proceed from the body of the female.

“ When the spawn is emitted and impreg-  
“ nated by the male, it sinks to the bottom of  
“ the water; during the first four hours they  
“ suffer no perceptible change, but when they  
“ begin to enlarge, grow lighter, and, in  
“ consequence, arise to the surface. At the  
“ end of eight hours the white in which they