

beetles, snails, and earth-worms; when it reposes, it rolls up its body in several folds like serpents. It can remain some time in the water without danger, and it casts a very thin pellicle of a greenish grey colour. Salamanders have even been kept more than six months in the water of a well without giving them any food; care only was taken to change the water often.

It has been remarked, that every time a salamander is plunged into the water, it attempts to raise its nostrils above the surface as if to seek for air, which is an additional proof that all oviparous quadrupeds have a need of respiration during the time they are not in a state of torpor. The salamander has apparently no ears, and in this it resembles serpents. It has even been pretended that it does not hear, and in consequence it has got the name of *sourd* in some provinces of France. This is very probable, as it has never been heard to utter a cry, and silence in general is coupled with deafness. Having then, perhaps, one sense less than other animals, and being destitute of the faculty of communicating its sensations to those of the same species, it must be reduced to an inferior degree of instinct; it is therefore very stupid, and not bold, as some have