

what is very wonderful, the animal thus swallowed, seems to be rather a gainer by the misfortune. After it has lain in the conqueror's belly for about an hour, it issues forth unhurt, and often in possession of the prey which had been the original cause of contention.

These reptiles continue eating the whole year, except when the cold approaches to congelation, and then, like most others of the insect tribe, they feel the general torpor of nature, and all their faculties are for two or three months suspended; but if they abstain at one time, they are proportionally voracious at another, and the meal of one day suffices them for several months together.

Their manner of propagation, or rather multiplication, has been for some years the astonishment of all the learned of Europe. They are produced in as great a variety of manners as every species of vegetable. Some polypi are propagated from eggs, as plants are from their seed; some are produced by buds issuing from their bodies; and all may be multiplied by cuttings.

If a polypus be carefully observed in summer, when these animals are chiefly active, and more

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