

a free circulation of air in their subterraneous habitations. The cavity where the female brings forth her young contains no provision, but is only a nest formed of straw and herbs. The depth of the cavities is very different. The young hamster in his first year makes its burrow only a foot deep, while the old animals often dig to the depth of four or five feet : all the cavities communicate together in one habitation, and which is sometimes from eight to ten feet diameter.

“ These animals store their magazines with dry clover, corn in the ear, and beans and peas in their pods ; having separated they carry out the husks and pods by the oblique passage. They commonly begin to get in their winter store about the end of August, and which they convey to their habitations in a pouch they have in their cheeks.

“ When the hamster has filled his magazines he covers them over, and carefully shuts all the avenues to them with earth : this precaution renders the discovery of these animals very difficult, and the heaps of earth which they throw up before the oblique passage are the only marks to trace their habitations. The most usual method of taking them is by digging them out of their holes, which is attended