

RACE VI.—TURBIT AND OWL. (Möventauben ; pigeons à cravate.)

*Feathers divergent along the front of the neck and breast ; beak very short, vertically rather thick ; œsophagus somewhat enlarged.*

Turbits and Owls differ from each other slightly in the shape of the head ; the former have a crest, and the beak is differently curved ; but they may be here conveniently grouped together. These pretty birds, some of which are very small, can be recognised at once by the feathers irregularly diverging, like a frill, along the front of the neck, in the same manner, but in a less degree, as along the back of the neck in the Jacobin. They have the remarkable habit of continually and momentarily inflating the upper part of the œsophagus, which causes a movement in the frill. When the œsophagus of a dead bird is inflated, it is seen to be larger than in other breeds, and not so distinctly separated from the crop. The Pouter inflates both its true crop and œsophagus ; the Turbit inflates in a much less degree the œsophagus alone. The beak of the Turbit is very short, being  $\cdot 28$  of an inch shorter than that of the rock-pigeon, proportionally with the size of their bodies ; and in some owls brought by Mr. E. Vernon Harcourt from Tunis, it was even shorter. The beak is vertically thicker, and perhaps a little broader, in proportion to that of the rock-pigeon.

RACE VII.—TUMBLERS. (Tümmler, or Burzeltauben ; culbutants.)

*During flight, tumble backwards ; body generally small ; beak generally short, sometimes excessively short and conical.*

This race may be divided into four sub-races, namely, Persian, Lotan, Common, and short-faced Tumblers. These sub-races include many varieties which breed true. I have examined eight skeletons of various kinds of Tumblers : excepting in one imperfect and doubtful specimen, the ribs are only seven in number, whereas the rock-pigeon has eight ribs.

*Sub-race I. Persian Tumblers.*—I received a pair direct from Persia, from the Hon. C. Murray. They are rather smaller birds than the wild rock-pigeon, about the size of the common dove-cot pigeon, white and mottled, slightly feathered on the feet, with the beak just perceptibly shorter than in the rock-pigeon. H.M. Consul, Mr. Keith Abbott, informs me that the difference in the length of beak is so slight, that only practised Persian fanciers can distinguish these Tumblers from the common pigeon of the country. He informs me that they fly in flocks high up in the air and tumble well. Some of