

unequally developed: this is well known to be the case with flat-fish, in which the one side differs in thickness and colour and in the shape of the fins, from the other, and during the growth of the young fish one eye is gradually twisted from the lower to the upper surface.<sup>60</sup> In most flat-fishes the left is the blind side, but in some it is the right; though in both cases reversed or "wrong fishes," are occasionally developed; and in *Platessa flesus* the right or left side is indifferently the upper one. With gasteropods or shell-fish, the right and left sides are extremely unlike; the far greater number of species are dextral, with rare and occasional reversals of development, and some few are normally sinistral; but certain species of *Bulimus*, and many *Achatinellæ*,<sup>61</sup> are as often sinistral as dextral. I will give an analogous case in the great articulate kingdom: the two sides of *Verruca*<sup>62</sup> are so wonderfully unlike, that without careful dissection it is extremely difficult to recognise the corresponding parts on the opposite sides of the body; yet it is apparently a mere matter of chance whether it be the right or the left side that undergoes so singular amount of change. One plant is known to me<sup>63</sup> in which the flower, according as it stands on the one or other side of the spike, is unequally developed. In all the foregoing cases the two sides are perfectly symmetrical at an early period of growth. Now, whenever a species is as liable to be unequally developed on the one as on the other side, we may infer that the capacity for such development is present, though latent, in the undeveloped side. And as a reversal of development occasionally occurs in animals of many kinds, this latent capacity is probably very common.

The best yet simplest cases of characters lying dormant are, perhaps, those previously given, in which chickens and young pigeons, raised from a cross between differently coloured

<sup>60</sup> See Steenstrup on the 'Obliquity of Flounders': in 'Annals and Mag. of Nat. Hist.' May, 1865, p. 361. I have given an abstract of Malm's explanation of this wonderful phenomenon in the 'Origin of Species' 6th Edit. p. 186.

<sup>61</sup> Dr. E. von Martens, in 'Annals and Mag. of Nat. Hist.' March, 1866,

p. 209.

<sup>62</sup> Darwin, 'Balanidæ,' Ray Soc., 1854, p. 499: see also the appended remarks on the apparently capricious development of the thoracic limbs on the right and left sides in the higher crustaceans.

<sup>63</sup> *Mormodes ignea*: Darwin, 'Fertilisation of Orchids,' 1862, p. 251.