

be fed; but they would not touch swill, which was devoured by the other pigs. An animal when once accustomed to an unnatural diet, which can generally be effected only during youth, dislikes its proper food, as Spallanzani found to be the case with a pigeon which had been long fed on meat. Individuals of the same species take to new food with different degrees of readiness; one horse, it is stated, soon learned to eat meat, whilst another would have perished from hunger rather than have partaken of it.³⁶ The caterpillars of the *Bombyx hesperus* feed in a state of nature on the leaves of the *Café diable*, but, after having been reared on the *Ailanthus*, they would not touch the *Café diable*, and actually died of hunger.³⁷

It has been found possible to accustom marine fish to live in fresh water; but as such changes in fish and other marine animals have been chiefly observed in a state of nature, they do not properly belong to our present subject. The period of gestation and of maturity, as shown in the earlier chapters,—the season and the frequency of the act of breeding,—have all been greatly modified under domestication. With the Egyptian goose the rate of change with respect to the season has been recorded.³⁸ The wild drake pairs with one female, the domestic drake is polygamous. Certain breeds of fowls have lost the habit of incubation. The paces of the horse, and the manner of flight of certain breeds of the pigeon, have been modified and are inherited. Cattle, horses, and pigs have learnt to browse under water in the St. John's River, East Florida, where the *Vallisneria* has been largely naturalised. The cows were observed by Prof. Wyman to keep their heads immersed for "a period varying from fifteen to thirty-five seconds."³⁹ The voice differs much in certain kinds of fowls and pigeons. Some varieties are clamorous and others silent, as the Call and common duck, or the Spitz and pointer dog. Every one knows how the breeds of the dog differ from

³⁶ This and several other cases are given by Colin, 'Physiologie Comp. des Animaux Dom.,' 1854, tom. i. p. 426.

³⁷ M. Michely de Cayenne, in 'Bull. Soc. d'Acclimat.,' tom. viii., 1861, p.

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³⁸ Quatrefages, 'Unité de l'Espèce Humaine,' 1861, p. 79.

³⁹ 'The American Naturalist,' Ap. 1874, p. 237.