

### § 7. *Receptacles for retaining Food.*

PROVISION is often made for the retention of the undigested food in reservoirs, situated in different parts of the mouth, or the œsophagus, instead of its being immediately introduced into the stomach. These reservoirs are generally employed for laying in stores of provisions for future consumption. Many quadrupeds have cheek pouches for this purpose: this is the case with several species of Monkeys and Baboons: and, also, with the *Mus cricetus*, or Hamster. The *Mus busarius*, or Canada rat, has enormous cheek pouches, which, when distended with food, even exceed the bulk of the head. Small cheek pouches exist in that singular animal, the *Ornithorhynchus*. The *Sciurus palmarum*, or palm squirrel, is also provided with a pouch for laying in a store of provisions. A remarkable dilatation, in the lower part of the mouth and throat, answering a similar purpose, takes place in the *Pelican*; a bird which displays great dexterity in tossing about the fish with which it has loaded this bag, till it has brought it into the proper position for being swallowed. The *Whale* has also a receptacle of enormous size, extending from the mouth to a considerable distance under the trunk of the body.

Analogous in design to these pouches are the dilatations of the œsophagus of birds, denominated *crops*. In most birds which feed on grain, the crop is a capacious globular sac, placed in front of the throat, and resting on the furcular bone. The crop of the *Parrot* is represented at c, Fig. 299; where also, s indicates the cardiac portion of the stomach, and g the gizzard, of that bird. The inner coat of the crop is furnished with numerous glands, supplying considerable quantities of fluid for macerating and softening the dry and hard texture of the grain, which, for that purpose, remains there for a considerable time. Many birds feed their young from the contents of the crop; and, at those seasons its glands are