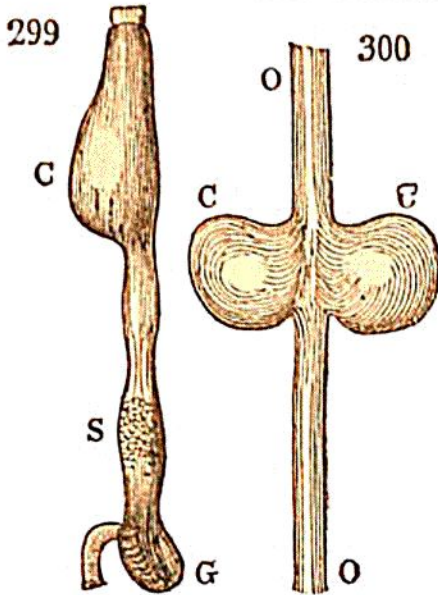


much enlarged, and very active in preparing their peculiar secretions: this is remarkably the case in the *Pigeon*, which,



instead of a single sac, is provided with two, (seen at c, c, Fig. 300,) one on each side of the œsophagus (o.) The pouting pigeon has the faculty of filling these cavities with air, producing that distended appearance of the throat from which it derives its name. Birds of prey have, in general, very small crops, their food not requiring any previous softening; but the *Vulture*, which

gorges large quantities of flesh at a single meal, has a crop of considerable size, forming, when filled, a visible projection in front of the chest. Birds which feed on fish have no separate dilatation for this purpose, probably because the great width of the œsophagus, and its having the power of retaining a large mass of food, render the farther dilatation of any particular part of the tube unnecessary. The lower portion of the œsophagus appears often, indeed, in this class of animals, to answer the purpose of a crop, and to effect changes in the food which may properly be considered as a preliminary stage of the digestive process.