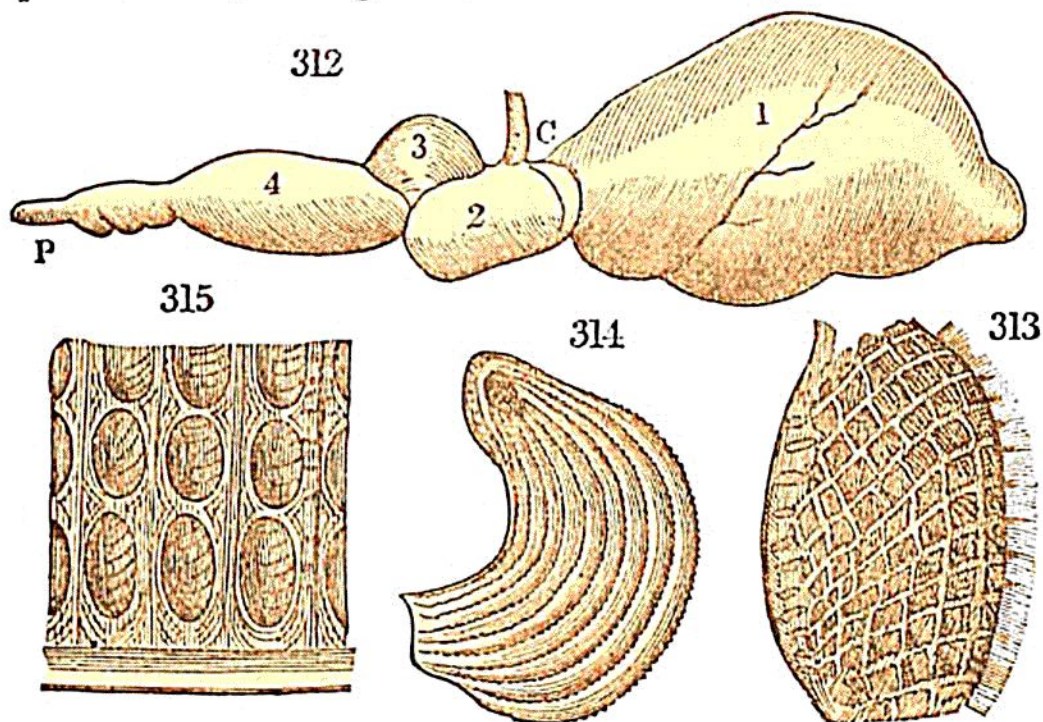


munications between these several stomachs of the cetacea are probably intended to ensure the thorough solution of their contents, by preventing the exit of all such portions as have not perfectly undergone this process.

Supernumerary cavities of this kind, belonging to the stomach, are more especially provided in those animals which swallow food either in larger quantity than is immediately wanted, or of a nature which requires much preparation previous to digestion. The latter is more particularly the case with the horned ruminant tribes that feed on the leaves or stalks of vegetables, a kind of food, which, in proportion to its bulk, affords but little nutriment, and requires, therefore, a long chemical process, and a complicated digestive apparatus, in order to extract from it the scanty nutritious matter it contains, and prepare it for being applied to the uses of the system. This apparatus is usually considered as consisting of four stomachs; and, in order to convey a distinct idea of this kind of structure, I have selected for representation, in Fig. 312, that of the *Sheep*, of which the



four stomachs are marked by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, respectively, in the order in which they occur, when traced from the œsophagus (c) to the intestine (p.)