

micircular canals in the cetacea was denied by Camper; but they have since been discovered by Cuvier.

Several quadrupeds, which are in the habit of burrowing, or of diving, as the *Sorex fodiens*, or water-shrew, are furnished with a valve, composed of a double membrane, capable of accurately closing the external opening of the meatus, and protecting it from the introduction of water, earth, or other extraneous bodies.* In like manner the external ear of the *Hippopotamus*, which feeds at the bottom of rivers, is guarded by an apparatus which has the effect of a valve.

We find, indeed, the same provident care displayed in this as in every other department of the animal economy: every part, however minute, of the organ of this important sense, being expressly adapted, in every species, to the particular circumstances of their situation, and to that degree of acuteness of perception, which is best suited to their, respective wants and powers of gratification.†

* Geoffroy St. Hilaire; Mémoires du Muséum, i. 305.

† The Comparative Physiology of the Voice, a function of which the object, in animals as well as in man, is to produce sounds, addressed to the ear, and expressive of their ideas, feelings, desires, and passions, forms a natural sequel to that of Hearing; but Sir Charles Bell having announced his intention of introducing it in his Treatise on the Hand, I have abstained from entering into this extensive subject.