

vided only for this temporary use appears from the circumstance of its falling off spontaneously in the course of three or four days after it has been so employed.

But though the bird has now gained its liberty, it is still unable to provide for its own maintenance, and requires to be fed by its parent till it can use its wings, and has learned the art of obtaining food. The pigeon is furnished by nature with a secretion from the crop, with which it feeds its young. In the Mammalia the same object is provided for still more expressly, by means of glands, whose office it is to prepare *milk*, a fluid which, from its chemical qualities, is admirably adapted to the powers of the digestive organs, when they first exercise their functions. The Cetacea have also mammary glands; but as the structure of the mouth and throat of the young in that class does not appear adapted to the act of sucking, there has always been great difficulty in understanding how they obtain the nourishment so provided. A recent discovery of Geoffroy St. Hilaire appears to have resolved the mystery with respect to the *Delphinus globiceps*; for he found that the mammary glands of that animal contain each a large reservoir, in which milk is accumulated, and which the dolphin is capable, by the action of the surrounding muscles, of emptying at once into the mouth of its young, without requiring from the latter any effort of suction.*

The rapid sketch which I have attempted to draw of the more remarkable steps of the early stages of organic development in the higher animals, taken in conjunction with the facts already adverted to in various parts of this Treatise, and particularly those relating to ossification, dentition, the formation of hair, of the quills of the porcupine, of the antlers of the stag, and of the feathers of birds, will suffice to show that they are regulated by laws which are definite, and preordained according to the most enlarged and profound

* The account of this discovery is contained in a memoir which was read at the "Institute." March 24, 1834.