

remarks, with a slimy secretion, which moistens the interval between the old and new shell, and facilitates their separation.

The time requisite for hardening the newly acquired crust, according to its previous state, is from one to three days. Those animals that are ready to moult have always two stony substances, called crabs' eyes, placed in the stomach, which, from the experiments of Reaumur and others, appear destined to furnish the matter, or a portion of it, of which the shell is formed, for if the animal is opened the day after its moult, when the shell is only half hardened, these substances are found only half diminished, and if opened later they are proportionably smaller. Thus has Creative Wisdom provided means for the prompt consolidation of the crust of these creatures, so that it is soon rescued from the dangers to which, in its naked state it is exposed. Reaumur measured several cray-fish, before and after their moult, and found that their augmentation amounted to about one-fifth, this amount probably decreases as they approach nearer to their adult state. From a chemical analysis of the crust of the lobster it has been ascertained that it consists of gelatine united to calcareous earth; it differs from the shells of Molluscans in having a much greater proportion of gelatine, whereas in the latter the calcareous earth greatly predominates.

It is asserted that *birds*, and other animals in tropical countries, have *two* moults within the year, after the two rainy seasons are passed, and two broods; whether this is the case with Crustaceans has not been ascertained. Most other Condylopes do not survive the laying of their eggs, but the Crustaceans are evidently exempted from this law, and emulate the higher animals in the duration of their existence.

It may be observed that the moult of Crustaceans differs in one respect from that of birds, which only change their