

producing two long strings, resembling necklaces, formed, as it were, of beads of jet, enclosed in crystal; while those of the latter consist of irregular masses of similar beads. This gelatinous or transparent envelope forms the first nutriment of the embryo. The nuptial song of the Reptiles is not, like that of birds, the delight of every heart, but is rather calculated to disturb and horrify than to still the soul. The hiss of serpents, the croaking of frogs and toads, the moaning of turtles, the bellowing of crocodiles and alligators,* form their gamut of discords.

With regard to the Class of *Fishes*, the general object of those that migrate appears to be the casting of their spawn; this it is that causes the different species of the *salmon* genus to leave the sea for the rivers; for this the *herring* travels southward, and the *mackerel* seeks the north; all of them guided by the law of the Most High, showing itself by an indomitable instinct, to seek those stations for oviposition that are best suited to the aëration, hatching, and rearing of their spawn;—but as no very striking traits are upon record with regard to the oviposition of fishes, I shall merely refer the reader, with respect to the instinct of the migrators, to a former part of the present work, where that subject is discussed more at large.†

Under this head I shall only further notice the numerous tribes of the *insect* world, which have all their seasons, varying according to their several destinies, for fulfilling the great law of nature, and to which the organization of each species is adapted: and when the period for laying their eggs is arrived, each is directed to place them where their young, when disclosed, may find their appropriate nutriment. From the instance of the flesh-fly, above related, ‡ we learn that it is their *scent* that directs insects to a proper station for their eggs. When we recollect that almost every plant,

* See Vol. i. p. 77.

† Ibid. 131.

‡ See above, p. 169.