

salmon. The form of fishes, generally speaking, is particularly calculated for swift and easy motion ; and the resistance of the fluid in which they move seems never to impede their progress. While birds that undertake long flights are often obliged to alight upon vessels for some rest and renovation of strength, fishes never seem exhausted by fatigue, and to require no respite or repose. Sharks have been known to keep pace with ships during long voyages ; and, like dogs, they will sport round vessels going at several knots an hour, as if they had plenty of spare force.* The thunny darts with the rapidity of an arrow, and the herring goes at the rate of sixteen miles per hour. But though many fishes thus pursue an unwearied course without any intervals of repose, yet there are some that often appear to sleep. Inflating its natatory vesicle, our fresh-water shark, the pike, in the heat of the day, rises nearly to the surface, and there remains perfectly motionless and apparently asleep : at this time he is easily snared, by passing a running noose of wire over his tail, and by a sudden jerk bringing him on shore.

The *eye* of fishes is like that of the higher animals, but of a substance that makes the access of the water to it no more troublesome than that of the air to terrestrial animals. Generally speaking, it is protected by no eyelid or nictitant membrane. One genus, however, removed from the *gobies*,† has the *former* ; and a species of *bodian*,‡ from the equatorial seas, has a moveable membranous valve above each eye, with which, at will, it can cover it, that seems analogous to the *latter*. The eye of the eel, and other serpentiform fishes, which are usually buried and move about in the mud, is covered, through the provident care of their Creator, by an immoveable membrane ; and in several species the organ can be withdrawn to the bottom of the socket, and even

* N. D. D'Hist. Nat. xxvii. 247.

† Periophthalmus.

‡ B. palpebratus.