

M. Daubenton found a gall-bladder in the seal which he dissected proportionable to the size of the liver ; and the gentlemen of the Academy of Sciences, who also met with a gall-bladder in the seal which they dissected, do not speak of its being remarkably small.

Aristotle could not have had any knowledge of the great seal of the Frozen Sea, since in the time he lived all the north of Europe and of Asia was unknown. The Romans considered Gaul and Germany as their north, and the Greeks knew still less of the animals belonging to this part of the world ; it is, therefore, very probable, that when Aristotle speaks of the *phoca* as a very common animal, he only means the Mediterranean seal.

These three species have many properties in common with each other ; the females bring forth in winter, and place their young upon some sand-bank, rock, or small island. When they suckle their young they sit upon their hind legs, and continue to nourish them in this manner for twelve or fifteen days, after which she brings them to the water, accustoms them to swim, and to search for their food ; she carries them on her back when they are fatigued. As each litter does not consist of above two or three, her cares are not much divided, and the education of her little ones is soon completed.

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