The passage of the food along the throat is facilitated by the mucous secretions, which are poured out from a multitude of glands interspersed over the whole surface of the membrane lining that passage. The *Camel*, which is formed for traversing dry and sandy deserts, where the atmosphere as well as the soil is parched, is specially provided with a glandular cavity placed behind the palate, and which furnishes a fluid for the express purpose of moistening and lubricating the throat.

In the structure of the *Œsophagus*, which is the name of the tube along which the food passes from the mouth to the stomach, we may trace a similar adaptation to the particular kind of food taken in by the animal. When it is swallowed entire, or but little changed, the œsophagus is a very wide canal, admitting of great dilatation. This is the case with many carnivorous birds, especially those that feed on fishes, where its great capacity enables it to hold, for a considerable time, the large fish which are swallowed entire, and which could not conveniently be admitted into the stomach. Blumenbach relates that a sea-gull, which he kept alive for many years, could swallow bones of three or four inches in length, so that only their lower ends reached the stomach, and were digested, while their upper ends projected into the œsophagus, and descended gradually, in proportion as the former were dissolved. Serpents, which swallow animals larger than themselves, have, of course, the œsophagus, as well as the throat, capable of great dilatation, and the food occupies a long time in passing through it, before it reaches the digesting cavity. The turtle has also a capacious œsophagus, the inner coat of which is beset with numerous firm and sharp processes, having their points directed towards the stomach: these are evidently intended to prevent the return of the food into the mouth. Grazing quadrupeds, which, while they eat, carry their heads close to the ground, have a long œsophagus, with thick muscular coats, capable of exerting considerable power in propelling the food in the direction of the stomach, which is contrary to that of gravity.