

adapted.* During our cruise in the higher southern latitudes, we saw vast numbers of these medusæ around and near the icebergs. The quantity was such as to prove conclusively, that it was in the waters of the temperature caused by the vicinity of these masses of ice, that they delight to dwell. Whales were also in abundance, and although principally of the fin-back species, sperm whales were not entirely wanting.

As regards the medusa, its powers of locomotion are feeble, and confined chiefly to the purpose of rising and sinking at pleasure. If polar currents exist, it must therefore be swept by them from the place of its nativity, and in its passage to lower latitudes, will by its locomotive power seek strata in the water of the low temperature to which its constitution is best adapted. My attention was drawn to the habits of the whales here in particular, from the novel manner they exhibited of feeding near the surface, instead of diving lower down, as they are usually seen to do in lower latitudes: they were constantly in sight, instead of being only seen at intervals.

It will be readily admitted that the medusa, like other animals, has its appropriate seasons of procreation, and it will appear probable that the season at which we saw them in such numbers was that in which they are brought forth most abundantly. So also, however low the temperature of the water in which they delight, there is little probability that their increase goes forward when the regions in which we met them are locked up in ice, and the genial light and warmth of the sun is denied them.

The food of the sperm whale will therefore be borne off to lower latitudes by the polar streams in greater abundance at one season than another, and this former season corresponds with that in which these currents have their greatest force. The sperm whale, it must be expected, will leave the higher latitudes and follow the currents which transport his food.

In conformity with this view, we find the habits of the sperm whale migratory. The polar currents, as has been seen, disappear from the surface in many cases, but do not cease to flow; and even when felt both at the surface and below, they will in approaching lower latitudes have their higher temperatures near the surface. The medusa will therefore descend in either case to greater depths, and the whale must dive in quest of the food which in higher latitudes he could find at the surface. We have seen in what a decided manner the polar currents

* Innumerable animalculæ, the appropriate food of the right whale, are also found there, as has been seen by our own observations at the south, and those of Scoresby at the north.