

The Mollymauk is an albatross about the size of a goose, head, throat, and under part pure white, the wings grey, and the bill black with a yellow streak on the top and with a bright yellow edge to the gape, which extends right back under the eye. The yellow shows out conspicuously on the side of the head. It is not thus shown in Gould's coloured figures. The bird is extremely handsome. They take up their abode in separate pairs anywhere about in the rookery, or under the trees, where there are no penguins, which latter situation they seem to prefer.

They make a cylindrical nest of tufts of grass, clay, and sedge, which stands up from the ground. The nest is neat and round. There is a shallow concavity on the top for the bird to sit on, and the edge overhangs somewhat, the old bird undermining it, as the Germans said, during incubation, by



NEST OF THE MOLLYMAUK.

pecking away the turf of which it is made.

I measured one nest, which was 14 inches in diameter and 10 inches in height. The nests when deserted and grass-grown make most convenient seats. The birds lay a single egg, about the size of a goose's, or somewhat larger,

but elongate, with one end larger than the other, as are all albatross eggs.

The egg is held in a sort of pouch whilst the bird is incubating. Thus the bird has to be driven right off the nest before it will drop the egg out of its pouch, and discover whether there is one there or no.

The birds when approached sit quietly on their nests or stand by them, and never attempt to fly; indeed they seem, when thus bent on nesting, to have almost forgotten the use of their wings.

Captain Carmichael, in his account of Tristan da Cunha, relates how he threw one of the birds over a cliff and saw it fall like a stone without attempting to flap; and yet these birds will

Sir Thomas Candish voyage te sien is. "Begin ende Voortgang vande vereenigde Neederlandsche Geoctroyeer de Ost-Indische Compagnie." 1^{te} deel. Long folio, Pub. 1646. "Schip.-vaerd der Hollanders nae de Straet Magaljanas," p. 28.