

bing between the toes is also in this otter rudimentary ; the beast altogether is very heavily built, with the head very broad and powerful. It appears to be an otter bent on returning to land habits.

I found two species of Land Planarian worms on some American Agaves, in the grounds of the Observatory. At first I thought these Planarians might have been introduced from South America with the Agaves, but they correspond in structure exactly with the genus *Rhynchodemus* of Ceylon, and seem certainly indigenous, although Land Planarians were not hitherto known to exist in Africa.\*

A small Chameleon is very abundant everywhere on the hedges near Cape Town. We had one alive in the ward-room ; it was quite tame and rested quietly on a bunch of twigs, hung up to the lamp rail, and would whip flies out of one's fingers from a distance of at least four inches with its tongue. It gave birth to three young ones one night : they at once twisted their tails round the twigs on which the mother was reposing, and began catching flies ; but our house-flies were too big for their mouths to swallow, and they had to chew away at them for a long time before they could get any juice out of them.

About the sea-shore at Simons Bay are quantities of cormorants, or shags, as they are called (*Phalacrocorax capensis*) ; they sit in groups on all the rocks about the town, and bask in the sun, and at times appear in vast flights darkening the air. Gannets (*Sula capensis*) are constantly in sight, and gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) ever flying over the water.

I paid a visit to an island in False Bay, called Seal Island. It is a mere shelving rock on which it is only possible to land on very favourable occasions. The whole place is a rookery of the Jackass penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*). It is an ugly bird as compared with the crested penguin of Tristan da Cunha ; the bill is blunter, but the birds can nevertheless bite hard with it : all the penguins seem to bite rather than peck. The birds here nested on the open rock, which was fully exposed to the burning sun and occasional rain. It must not be supposed that either penguins or albatrosses are necessarily inhabitants of cold climates, a species of penguin and an albatross breed at the Galapagos Archipelago, almost exactly on the equator.

There was not a blade of grass on the rock, but it was

\* For a description of these Planarians, and an account of the Land Planarians obtained during the voyage elsewhere, see H. N. Moseley, "Notes on the Structure of several forms of Land Planarians." Quar Journ. Micro. Sci., Vol. XVII., New Ser., p. 273.