That Seals do take stones into the stomach has been observed both by the seal fishermen and by naturalists. Captain Henry Pain, of the S.S. "Scanderia," when writing upon the habits of the Sea Lion, says[1] that he has seen upwards of twenty-five pounds weight of stones, some of which were the size of a goose's egg, in "a pouch" inside the animal, obviously the stomach. He states that as these animals get thin they have the power of throwing the stones up, a sufficient quantity only being retained to keep the Seals from coming up too freely to the surface. Mr. Elliott relates[2] that he has opened the stomach in many specimens of *Callorhinus ursinus*, and that in old bulls he has seen stones which weigh half a pound, and in one stomach he found about five pounds of large pebbles: he also possesses the stomach of a Sea Lion in which more than ten pounds of stones were present, some of which weighed two and three pounds. Mr. Robert Brown, in his account of the Pinnipedia of the Greenland Seas,[3] states that he has often seen small stones or gravel in the stomach of the Walrus, and that this is a habit which it possesses in common with *Phoca barbata* and even *Beluga catodon*. The intelligent keeper of the Seals in the Zoological Gardens, London, informs me that he is familiar with this practice, and that he has seen the Sea Lion both swallow large pebbles and subsequently disgorge them.

Various uses have been ascribed to this peculiar habit of the Seals. The prevailing opinion amongst sailors is that the animals swallow the stones as ballast to enable them to dive so as to catch fish, and that they can at will disgorge them. Mr. Elliott considers that their use is, by grinding against each other, to destroy the numerous Nematode worms with which the stomach is infested. Others again maintain that they serve the same purpose as the stones in the gizzard of a fowl, and assist in the trituration of the food. I am myself inclined to favour this view, for a Seal literally "bolts" entire the fish which serve as its chief food, without any mastication, and the action of the pebbles on the fish so swallowed would without doubt, through the movements of the muscular wall of the stomach, most materially assist the gastric juice in the trituration and chymification of the food.

[1] *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1872, p. 681.
[2] Quoted in Allen's History of North American Pinnipeds, p. 353.
[3] *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, June 25, 1868, p. 430.