

*Unicorn.*

cription of the whale  
ame which treats of  
to describe the nar-

is about twelve feet  
dorsal, and thirtyfive  
four, of which twelve  
ns through them all,  
t penetrate the forty-  
in length from the fif-  
rely perceptible at the  
ribs, six true and six  
heart shaped, with the

thirteen to sixteen feet  
thickest part, which is  
ence is about eight or  
ter, at the distance of  
is about one foot; the  
back is depressed, and  
eck.

of the whole length of  
d. The mouth is small,  
a wedge-shaped under  
es is about an inch, and  
ing of the mouth, about  
opening of the ear is six  
meter of a small knitting-  
and sends forth a large,  
which affords sockets for

ed immediately over the  
ing, of about three and a  
and a half long. It ex-  
a sac, or air-vessel, which  
vo cavities, one on each  
he sac, the blow-holes are  
n the skull, and are closed  
each canal.

The fins are twelve or fourteen inches long, and six or eight broad, at one-fifth of the length of the animal from the snout. They are not used in swimming or turning, but merely to preserve the balance of the animal. The skin resembles that of the whale, excepting that it is thinner. The cuticle is about as thin as writing-paper; the rete mucosum three-eighths or three-tenths of an inch thick; the cutis thin, but strong and compact, on the outside.

The most remarkable peculiarity of this animal is the long spiral tusk, which has obtained for it the name of unicorn. It grows from the left side of the head, and is sometimes nine or ten feet long. It projects from the inferior part of the upper jaw, and points forward and slightly downward, being parallel in direction to the roof of the mouth. It is spirally striated from right to left, and tapers to a round, blunt point. It is of a yellowish white, and consists of a compact kind of ivory, and is usually hollow from the base to within a few inches of the point. A tusk of the average length, five feet, is about two inches and a half in diameter at the base, one inch and three-fourths in the middle, and about three-eighths within an inch of the end. In such a tusk there are five or six turns of the spiral, which extends to within six or seven inches of the point. In addition to this external tooth, peculiar to the male, there is another on the right side of the head, about nine inches long, imbedded in the skull. Some instances have occurred of male narwals having been taken which had two external tusks. What purpose this weapon is intended to serve has never been ascertained.

The narwal is a harmless animal, of an active disposition. While at the surface, these creatures, for the sake of respiring, frequently lie motionless for several minutes, with their heads and backs just above water. Occasionally small herds are seen together, each consisting of individuals of the same sex.

The narwal feeds on molluscous animals, such as the cuttlefish, &c. Its whole body is covered with a layer of blubber, immediately under the skin, which yields a considerable quantity of fine oil. The Esquimaux employ the whole animal in various uses. The flesh is eaten, the oil burned, the intestines wrought into lines and clothing, and the tusks are used for spears.