

THE NARWAL, *Narwhale*, or *Sea Unicorn*.

We have given as much room to the description of the whale as we can spare, in that part of our volume which treats of Greenland. We shall therefore proceed to describe the narwal, which is found only in the arctic seas.

The vertebral column of the narwal is about twelve feet long. There are seven cervical, twelve dorsal, and thirtyfive lumbar and caudal vertebræ,—in all fiftyfour, of which twelve are in the tail. The spinal marrow runs through them all, from the head of the fortieth, but does not penetrate the forty-first. The spinous processes diminish in length from the fifteenth lumbar vertebræ, until they are scarcely perceptible at the nineteenth. There are twelve slender ribs, six true and six false on each side. The sternum is heart shaped, with the broad part anteriorly.

When full grown, the narwal is from thirteen to sixteen feet long, exclusive of the tusk; and at the thickest part, which is two feet behind the fins, the circumference is about eight or nine feet. The perpendicular diameter, at the distance of twelve or fourteen inches from the tail, is about one foot; the transverse about seven inches. The back is depressed, and flat, three or four feet posterior to the neck.

The head forms about one seventh of the whole length of the animal, being small, blunt and round. The mouth is small, and incapable of much extension, with a wedge-shaped under lip. The largest diameter of the eyes is about an inch, and they are placed on a line with the opening of the mouth, about thirteen inches from the snout. The opening of the ear is six inches behind the eye, and is of the diameter of a small knitting-needle. The skull is concave above, and sends forth a large, flat, wedge-shaped process in front, which affords sockets for the tusks.

The spiracle or blow-hole is situated immediately over the eyes, and is a single semicircular opening, of about three and a half inches in diameter, and one inch and a half long. It expands immediately within the skin into a sac, or air-vessel, which extends laterally and forward into two cavities, one on each side. At the posterior extremity of the sac, the blow-holes are seen divided into two distinct canals in the skull, and are closed by a valve, one lobe of which covers each canal.