

feathers, will have an excellent effect in keeping out moths. Covering with tobacco leaves will also answer the same end.

In some instances, large skins may be preserved by being salted down in casks.

REPTILES.

The larger *lizards*, such as those exceeding twelve or eighteen inches in length, may be skinned, according to the principles above mentioned, although the preservation in spirit, when possible, is preferable for all reptiles.

Large *frogs* and *salamanders* may likewise be skinned, although cases where this will be advisable are very rare.

Turtles and *large snakes* will require this operation.

To one accustomed to the skinning of birds, the skinning of frogs or other reptiles will present no difficulties.

The skinning of a snake is still easier. Open the mouth and separate the skull from the vertebral column, detaching all surrounding muscles adherent to the skin. Next, tie a string around the stump of the neck thus exposed and, holding on by this, strip the skin down to the extremity of the tail. The skin thus inverted should be restored to its proper state, and then put in spirit or stuffed, as convenient.—Skins of reptiles may be stuffed with either sand or sawdust, by the use of which their shape is more easily restored.

Turtles and tortoises are more difficult to prepare in this way, although their skinning can be done quite rapidly. "The breastplate must be separated by a knife or saw from the back, and, when the viscera and fleshy parts have been removed, restored to its position.—The skin of the head and neck must be turned inside out, as far as the head, and the vertebrae and flesh of the neck should be taken from the head, which, after being freed from the flesh, the brain, and the tongue, may be preserved with the skin of the neck. In skinning the legs and the tail, the skin must be turned inside out, and the flesh having been removed from the bones, they are to be returned to their places by redrawing the skin over them, first winding a little cotton or tow around the bones to prevent the skin adhering to them when it dries."—RICHARD OWEN.

Another way of preparing these reptiles is as follows: Make two incisions, one from the anterior end of the breastplate to the symphysis of the lower jaw, and another from the posterior end of the breastplate to the vent or tip of the tail; skin off these regions and remove all fleshy parts and viscera without touching the breastplate itself. Apply preservative, stuff, and sew up again both incisions.

"When turtles, tortoises, crocodiles, or alligators, are too large to be preserved whole in liquor, some parts, as the head, the whole viscera stripped down from the neck to the vent, and the cloaca, should be put into spirit or solution."—R. OWEN.