

often witnessed in a litter of kittens or rabbits. The same litter of kittens may contain white, black, piebald, and tortoise-shell individuals. But in a wild condition cats and rabbits are of a sombre or uniform colour, and one individual of either species is virtually just like any other individual. The reason of this is that the dull inconspicuous colour corresponds more or less with the creature's surroundings, so that the wild-cat is disguised from the birds upon which it preys, and therefore is the better equipped to approach them stealthily ; and the rabbit on the other hand is the better concealed from the attacks of the wily fox or other foe. Now when cats or rabbits are domesticated, any individuals manifesting unwonted conspicuous colours instead of the usual uniform greys have no creatures on the alert or foes to observe them, hence there is no call for the survival of the fittest, and in course of time we have cats and rabbits, and in the same way cows and horses, black, white, brown, or spotted. If domestic cats and rabbits were suddenly to revert to a wild state, and yet could retain their conspicuous colours, the former would catch very few birds, and the latter would escape very few foxes, and soon they would cease to exist. Now Star-fishes do not require to be hidden from enemies, because they have few enemies, and they do not require to be disguised from their prey, because just as a cow gets plenty to eat in a field of clover, so the rapacious Star-fish gets all it can desire in the luscious bivalves which are permanently moored by a byssus in thousands to its habitat. Therefore a uniform or sombre colour is not requisite, and their conspicuous yellow, purple, or brown tints may be thus accounted for.

The Urchins, observed in this locality, have moveable spines of a beautiful purple. Unlike the Star-fishes they never come out of the water, but under its surface can make their way into crevices of the rocks. The shell of a Sea-urchin, which is remarkably symmetrical in shape, is not composed, as might appear, of one piece, but of hundreds of plates sutured