

in the air; while some are curled up in a ring like a dog.

'Most of these babies sleep in a restless, jerky, nervous way, as if they had bad dreams. Many will be seen playing with each other, crawling over the ground uneasily, day and night alike, or rolling over and over in good-natured frolic; for these amiable little beasts are never ill-natured.

'The interesting time in this water-baby's life comes when he learns to swim. His parents take no notice of him, and the little fellow has to attend to his own edu-

struggles and beats the water with his little flippers, and comes out so tired that he has to take a nap at once.

'Every day the young seals play in the water, very clumsy and awkward at first, but learning more as time goes on, till, before many weeks, the whole baby population of hundreds of thousands of pups spend most of their time in the surf, swarming along the whole coast, rollicking and chatting in great glee.

'By the time the old seals leave the land, and the young ones begin to feel the desire to go too, the young seal can swim and



A SEAL HUNT.

cation, for, strange to say, though destined to pass his life in the water, he cannot swim till he has learned.

'It happens thus: In his wandering about the land, when he gets to be five or six weeks old, the pup, as he is called, first or last stumbles upon the beach, and into the edge of the surf. This is a new element, but it has a fascination for him that he cannot resist.

'The first time a wave washes up and goes over him, he turns in hot haste and scrambles back upon the land, very much frightened; but in a moment or two back he goes, flounders about in the first wave,

dive and sport and sleep in the water with ease. Also he has learned to get from it his food, consisting of small squids and other little creatures, till he is strong and expert enough to catch fish.

'By the middle of September this self-training is ended, and the young seals weigh thirty or forty pounds. As the time draws near for them to take to their ocean life, they shed their baby-coats and put on the "sea-going jackets"—light grey overcoats of fine hair about an inch long, and soft brown under ones, half an inch thick, which keep their bodies warm and dry.