

either very defective or practically absent. The olfactory nerves, in fact, degenerate in all Cetaceans except the great baleen whales, the nasal chambers and passages being modified, as we have seen, for the peculiar respiration characteristic of these aquatic mammals.

Pennant in his "British Zoology" remarks that whales "like land animals, breathe by means of lungs, being destitute of gills. This obliges them to rise frequently to the surface of the water to respire, to sleep on the surface, as well as to perform several other functions." In the eyes of the law whales are still regarded as fish, and along with the sturgeon are, in Britain, named "Royal fish," and belong to the sovereign, in accordance with an old Act of Edward the Second, which runs "Item habet varectum maris per totum regnum Ballenas et Sturgiones captos etc.," so that when accidentally stranded or captured on British shores, "the king and queen divided the spoil," as Pennant quaintly adds: "the king asserting his right to the head, her majesty to the tail." Nor was the Queen's share to be altogether despised if Frederick Marten's opinion is to be trusted. "The flesh of the whale is coarse and leathery" he wrote, about three, hundred years ago, "but somewhat resembles that of the ox . . . the flesh of the tail is softer." It is not the object of these notes, however, to determine the culinary excellencies of the whale, but to refer simply to certain striking features in the respiration of these gigantic creatures.

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