it has openings protected by the fur, which are admirably fitted for their purpose, as the hearing of few animals is more acute. Its neck is very short, and its body is thick, round, and muscular, terminated by a tail about an inch long. The fore-legs have more the appearance of hands growing out of the body, turned outwards and backwards, like the hands of a man when swimming. These legs are very strong, and are each furnished with five claws. The hind legs are longer and weaker than the fore ones, being only need in progressive motions ; whereas the others are constantly employed in digging and boring the ground, or in scraping and throwing back the earth when loosened ; for while the mole is excavating. It is always obliged to draw the loosened earth backwards, and to lift or shove it above the surface of the ground in the same way. Its teeth are beautifully white, and consist of forty-four in all, viz. six upper and eight under incisors, two upper and two under canines, and seven molars on each side above, and six on each side below. Its food consists almost entirely of earth-worms and a few insects.

The male and female go together about the end of March or beginning of April, and most of them produce their young in the beginning of June, a few so early as the last week in May.@@1 The female brings forth her young only once a-year, the number varying from one to nine at a birth, and five or six being the average number. She carries her young about nine weeks, that is, from the last week in March or the first in April, till the last week in May or beginning of June. When the season arrives for the male and female going together, if their domiciles are not connected by old workings, the solitary mole will leave his place of abode in the night, and travel a considerable distance above ground to meet with a companion.@@3

The season for trapping moles in Scotland commences on the 20th of August, and ends on the 31st of May in each year, or occasionally a week or two later if the winter be a severe one.

About forty years ago, when steps were taken to clear the moles from the estates of his grace Henry duke of Buccleuch in Scotland, a man was appointed to each five thousand or six thousand acres of land, for two or three of the first years of a twenty years’ lease ; and so much success attended the plan, that two men were sufficient to keep fifty thousand Scotish acres of land pretty clear of moles during the remainder of the lease. And had it not been that there were several intervening patches of land, where the moles were not trapped at all, and where their propa­gation was kept up, one man would probably have sufficed for the purpose.

The most common way of taking moles, is by traps set in their walks or runs ; and the best for this purpose are the wooden ones made by the bobbin turners in the neighbour­hood of Kendal and elsewhere, and sold at about twopence each. Sixty of these traps, with as much mole-twine as may be bought for eighteenpence, a few sticks, a small bodkin, and a mole-spade, equip the mole-catcher, and will serve him for a year without any additional outlay. With these materials, in good ground, where the moles have not before been disturbed, he will capture three hundred dozens the first season. Before commencing operations, the traps should be steeped in water, and covered in the ground for a day or two, to remove any peculiar smell which may be­long to them.

In the subterraneous runs of the mole, as among the streets of towns and villages, there are certain walks more frequented than others, and hence entitled to the name of thoroughfares.

The dots in the above diagram represent the mole-hills, and the lines the walks or streets communicating between them, which serve the double purpose of a dwelling and a trap for worms, upon which the mole feeds. It is probable that all these streets, or at all events a large proportion of them, are traversed every twenty-four hours, more especi­ally when food is scarce. It is also obvious that certain parts of these walks must be more frequently passed than others.

A may be supposed to be a hedge near which the mole will spend much of its time in wet, cold, or stormy wea­ther ; B and D are two ridges adjoining to the hedge, where it is much engaged in fine weather; and C the furrow be­tween those ridges. Let fig. 1 represent the walk conduct­ing from the hedge to the first ridge, and fig. 2 a con­tinuation of the same walk between the first and second ridges. Figs. 3 and 4 are mainwalks on the ridges. Nos. 1 and 2 are the walks that will be most used, and therefore are the places where the mole-catcher would place his traps. Nos. 3 and 4 are the next best, in conse­quence of there being only a single road or passage in each place, and not, as to the right and left of them, a variety of byeways. In many cases the inexperienced may be un­able to determine which is a main run, in consequence of the ground being apparently all worked up together. In such a case he should endeavour to find a walk in a hedge bottom, or in crossing the ditch to the hedge, or where the mole goes to water, or in the crossing of a gapstead or gateway, or in a footpath, or furrow, or sheepwalk, or along the side of a drain. In such places as these, the ground is generally pretty solid, and it may be assumed as a general rule, that the mole never likes to make a great number of walks where the ground is hard, or where it is frequently trodden on. When the mole-catcher has surveyed the ground, and made up his mind where to place his trap, as at Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, he may strike his spade into the ground in a right line, between the hillocks, and if he finds the ground hollow, he has discovered the walk, and he may there make a hole to set his trap in. Care must be taken not to make this hole too large, and it ought to be about a quarter of an inch lower than the bottom of the walk, so

@@@, Mr. Yeadell comes to this conclusion from bis observation of the state of the female about this time, and from frequently having taken the whole litter of young in the nest, which is easily found, from its being made in the centre of an unusually large hillock. Although the mole is here stated to breed only once a-year. It is the recorded belief of some observers, that two broods are annually produced, one in spring or early in summer, and another in autumn. The more usual and characteristic period, however, we believe to be the spring, and this accords with the practical observations of continental naturalists on the subject.

@@@» This is a circumstance which Mr. Yendell conceives to be proved in various ways ; first, by his frequently having found the workings entirely abandoned in particular places in the months of March and April ; secondly, by finding unusually large numbers of moles together at this time ; and, thirdly, by incidental circumstances, such as taking a mole which had lost his tail, or had been deprived of a bind leg. In 1809 Mr. Yeadell took a mole without a tail, and the following year he took one wanting a bind leg, both of which had been twisted off, in traps of his own, at the distance of a mile or more from the place where they were at last taken. the most frequent cause of the mole changing its ground arises from inundations. When the rivers rise rapidly and cover bis workings, be is obliged to abandon bis subterraanne abode, and swim for his life, which he can do with the buoyancy of a water-rat.