

well known of the terrestrial species, consume large quantities of food. Some are herbivorous, and others carnivorous; many prey on living, and others on decaying animal and vegetable substances. As in a fossil state the shells alone remain to afford any clue as to the structure and economy of the originals, characters have been sought for, by which the fluviatile or marine nature, and the carnivorous or herbivorous habits of the living mollusca may be determined. As a general rule, it will be found, that the shells of terrestrial and fresh-water Gasteropoda have the aperture entire, as in the Garden Snail, and in the fossil *Lign.* 95, fig. 1; and that a large proportion of the marine species have the opening notched or channelled, as in the Whelk, and *Lign.* 95, figs. 3, 4; and most of the species with entire apertures are herbivorous. But these inferences must be regarded in a very general sense, and it will require corroborative evidence to establish the marine or fresh-water nature of those fossil shells which do not bear a close analogy to known living species.\*

The various conditions in which the remains of univalve shells occur in the mineral kingdom have already been so fully explained, that but a few additional remarks on that subject are required (see p. 371.).

The *Gasteropoda* are found to progressively

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\* See Ly. I. p. 63 and p. 65.