

and is lost as the animal is developed, so that at last there is no other covering than a slimy skin. In others, the skin becomes so thick and firm as to have the consistence of elastic leather; or it is gelatinous or transparent, and, what is very curious, these tissues may be the same as those of woody fibre, as, for example, in the *Ascidia*. As a general thing, the solid parts do not aid in locomotion, so that the mollusks are mostly sluggish animals. It is only in a few rare cases that the shell becomes a true lever, as in the *Scallops*, (*Pecten*,) which use their shells to propel themselves in swimming.

156. The muscles of mollusks either form a flat disk under the body, or large bundles across its mass, or are distributed in the skin so as to dilate and contract it, or are arranged about the mouth and tentacles, which they put in motion. However varied the disposition may be, they always form very considerable masses, in proportion to the size of the body, and have a soft and mucous appearance, such as is not seen in the contractile fibres of other animals. This peculiar aspect no doubt arises from the numerous small cavities extending between the muscles, and the secretion of mucus which takes place in them.

157. In the Articulated animals, the solid parts are external, in the form of rings, generally of a horny structure, but sometimes calcareous, and successively fitting into each other at their edges. The tail of a lobster gives a good idea of this structure. The rings differ in the several classes of this department, merely as to volume, form, solidity, number of pieces, and the degree of motion which one has upon another. In some groups they are consolidated, so as to form a shield or carapace, such as we see in the crabs. In others, they are membranous, and the body is capable of assuming various forms, as in the leeches and worms generally