every animal where they are found, in an invariable order; first, the stomach, (*s*,) then the intestine, which is small at first, but often enlarged towards its termination. This arrangement may be seen by the following diagrams from a beetle and a land mollusk, where the same letters indicate corresponding parts, (Figs. 51, 52.)

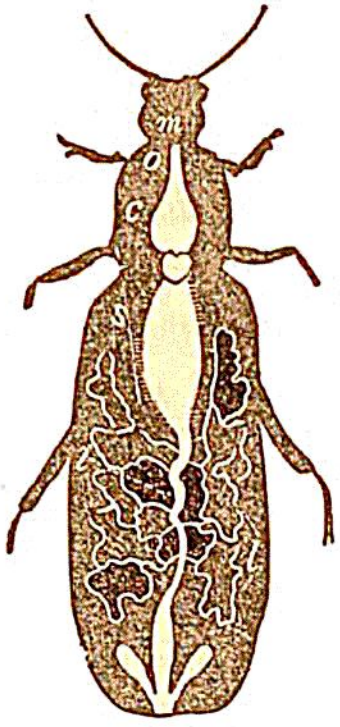

Fig. 51.

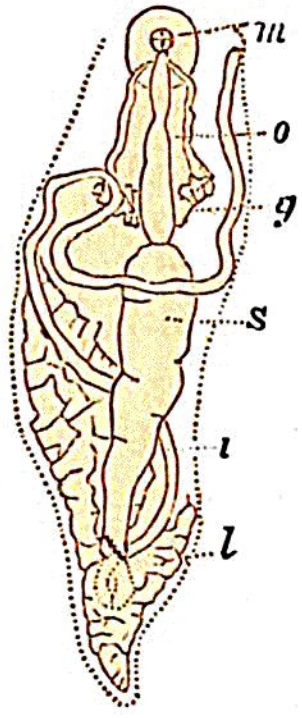

Fig. 52.

207. From the mouth, (*m*,) the food passes into the stomach through a narrow tube in the neck, called the *œsophagus* or *gullet*, (*o*.) This is not always a direct passage of uniform size; but there is sometimes a pouch, the *crop*, (*c*,) into which the food is first introduced, and which sometimes acquires considerable dimensions, especially in birds, and in some insects and mollusks, (Fig. 51.) In the stomach, the true digestive process is begun. The food no sooner arrives there than changes commence, under the influence of a peculiar fluid called the *gastric juice*, which is secreted by glands lining the interior of the stomach. The digestive action is sometimes aided by the movements of the stomach itself, which, by its strong contractions, triturates the food. This is especially the case in the gizzard of some birds, which, in the hens and ducks, for instance, is a powerful muscular organ. In some of the Crustacea and Mollusks, as the Lobster and Aplysia, there are even solid organs for breaking down the food within the stomach itself.

208 The result of this process is the reduction of the food