

the wound is inflicted, the teeth, being moveable at their base, fall back, leaving the opening of the mouth free for sucking. The wound thus made is of a peculiar form, being composed of three lines, radiating from a centre, where the three teeth had penetrated.

Most of the Mollusca which inhabit univalve shells are provided with a tubular organ, of a cylindric or conical shape, capable of elongation and contraction, by circular and longitudinal muscular fibres, and serving the purpose of a proboscis, or organ of prehension, for seizing and conveying food into the mouth. These tubes are of great size in the *Buccinum*, the *Murex*, and the *Voluta*, as also in the *Doris*, which, though it has no shell, is likewise a gasteropode. In those mollusca of this order which have not a proboscis, as the *Limax*, or slug, the *Helix*, or snail, and the *Aplysia*, or sea-hare, the mouth is furnished with broad



lips, and is supported by an internal cartilage, having several tooth-like projections, which assist in laying hold of the substances taken as food. That of the snail is represented in Fig. 270.

All the *Sepiæ*, or cuttle fish tribe, are furnished, at the entrance of the mouth, with two horny jaws, having a remarkable resemblance to the bill of a parrot; excepting that the lower piece is the larger of the two, and covers the upper one, which is the reverse of what takes place in the parrot. These constitute a powerful instrument for breaking the shells of the mollusca and crustacea, which compose the usual prey of these animals.

Fishes almost always swallow their food entire, so that their jaws and teeth are employed principally as organs of prehension and detention; and the upper jaw, as well as the lower one, being moveable upon the cranium, they are capable of opening to a great width. The bony pieces which compose the jaws are more numerous than the corresponding bones in the higher classes of vertebrata, and they appear, therefore, as if their development had not proceeded,