

transparent, so that they can discern the razor-fish in its burrow by its tubes, which are exerted. So powerful are its struggles, that, though they wind linen about their feet, they are often severely wounded by the sharp edges of their shells. The animal descends to the bottom of its burrow when the tide retires, and there remains till its return, when it rises again. In order to take it, the fishermen are accustomed to cast into its retreat—which always remains open for respiration, and which is indicated by a little jet of water—a very little salt; this probably deceives the razor-fish, and causes it to ascend, thinking the tide returned. They bury themselves with wonderful celerity by the rapid action of their foot, and mount again by the combined action of that part and their smooth valves. The foot is cylindrical, and ends in a spherical summit of larger diameter than the rest.\*

The *common cockle*† is also a borer. Mr. Osler, in a very interesting paper in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1826, has described the way in which they bury themselves. The foot of the cockle, he observes, is very strong and stiff, and is the instrument by which they principally perform this operation; but to look at it when unemployed, we cannot readily conceive how it can make a burrow capacious enough for so large a shell. Its point, indeed, is solid, and a viscid secretion from its surface enables it to fix itself more firmly in the sand; but this alone is not sufficient to accomplish this purpose, it is therefore further gifted with the power of distending it to a size, nearly equalling that of its shell—but how is this effected? It has a tube, opening just within the mouth, which conveys to the foot the water by which the animal is enabled to distend it—thus the size of the boring auger becomes so nearly equal to that of the shells, that the solid point or bit first entering the sand, in time,

\* Fig. 31.

† *Cardium edule*.