

Many other bivalves, which I need not particularize, spin a byssus with their foot. Singular it is that the same office should be assigned to organs so differently situated in different animals. The spinnerets of the silk-worm and other spinning moths are in the *mouth*, those of the spider in its *tail*, and those of various shell-fish in their *foot*; in the first case, if we consider the various purposes to which caterpillars apply the faculty of spinning, we see the importance of its being under the direction of the eye of the animal: and even in the case of the spider, the eye directs the animal in its course to form its concentric circles, and the thread follows it; and the same is the case when it spins the rays that traverse its web, or when it descends from a height. But the foot is the only organ that is so situated in bivalve shells, as to throw forth a thread that will go *out* of the shell, where it is wanted for use.

Of all this tribe of shells none are more beautiful, both as to their form, painting, and sculpture, than what are called *Escallop* shells, or *Comb* shells,* from their resemblance, as to the scoring of the upper valve, to that instrument. These may be regarded as, in some degree, analogues of the butterflies amongst insects; and their flying, as it were, on the surface of the water, as we shall soon see, increases the resemblance. There is, however, a difference between the Condylopes, or annulose animals, and the Molluscans, which must strike every examiner; the latter cannot be called symmetrical animals; while in the former the most perfect symmetry, both as to number of parts, and their structure, general form, sculpture and painting, prevails; in the latter this general symmetry seems not to obtain; in the *bimuscular* bivalves, indeed, the two shells are generally symmetrical both in form, size, and sculpture, but this does not invariably take place. In many of the *unimusculars* the upper

* Pecten.