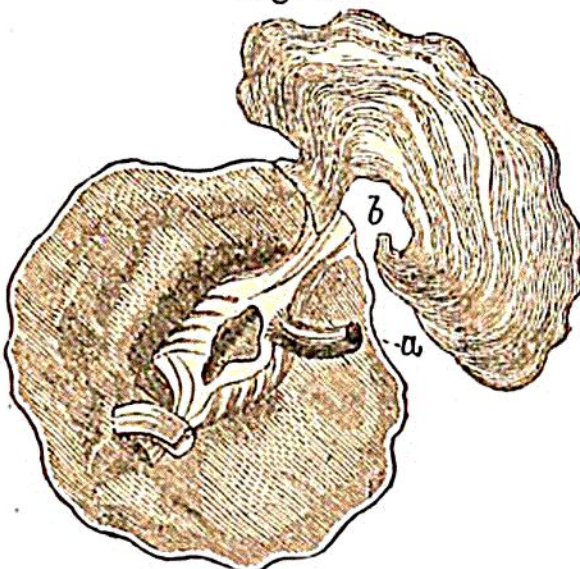


just mentioned may take place when accidental substances are introduced, and produce the warty excrescences, and sometimes loose misshapen pearls.

The diving tackle consists of a large stone suspended by a rope with a strong loop above the stone to receive one foot of the diver, and having also a slip-knot, and a basket formed of a hoop and network which receives the other foot. When he has fixed himself in this tackle, and is duly prepared, he holds his nostrils with one hand, and pulling the running knot with the other, instantly descends: when he reaches the bottom, he disengages his foot from the stone, which is immediately drawn up to be ready for the next diver. He at the bottom throws himself on his face, and collects everything he can lay hold of into the basket; when ready to ascend, he jerks the rope, and is speedily hauled up, and working himself up the rope, he arrives at the surface sooner than the laden basket. A minute and a half, or two minutes, are the utmost any diver remains under water. The shark-charmers form a necessary part of the company; by their incantations they are supposed to

Fig. 35.



Anomia Cepa.

a. The tendon.

b. Aperture of the upper valve.

possess the power of preventing these voracious fishes from attacking the divers, and they will not descend without their attendance; where the bed is rich, the diver often collects 150 oysters at one dip, but sometimes not more than five.\* It is said that a single diver will, in one day, often bring up from 1000 to 4000 oysters.

From the simple circumstance that Providence has

\* Malte-Brun, Geogr. iii. 225.