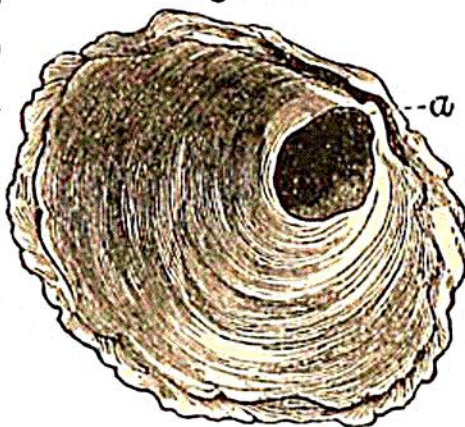


instructed this animal, which cannot eject from its shell those substances, whether formed within itself, or that have accidentally entered, to encase them in the precious substance which it is empowered to secrete, what a vast fund of ornament to deck the most lovely part of the creation, and having no parallel in any gem that the earth produces, is provided. The pearls obtained from other shell-fish vary in colour; those from the wing-shell are brown, and those from the fresh-water mussels greenish, but sometimes they are yellow, pink, bluish, and some are even black; these last are very rare and dear.

Other bivalves fix themselves by a tendinous ligament to the rocks. In one genus (*fig. 36*), in the upper valve near the hinge, is an aperture, closed by a

Fig. 36.

kind of operculum formed at the dilated extremity of an internal muscle; it is by this operculum that the animal fixes itself. In another, related to the last,* the beak of the lower valve turns up, overhanging in some degree the upper valve; in this beak is a notch or aperture, through which



Anomia Ehippium.
a. Aperture.

the fixing tendon passes; affording an admirable instance of variation in the means of attaining the same end, when circumstances require it. It was necessary that the valves should not be reversed; a tendon through the lower valve secures this in the first of these animals; but in the second, where the overhanging beak would interfere with this purpose, the tendon issues from the beak itself, so as to enable the animal still to fix itself with the proper valve down-

* Terebratula, Fig. 37.