

described as moving very slowly in the water by bending its extremities. It swims on the surface when the weather is calm, but adheres to the floating fuci when the sea is agitated, so that the kindness and foresight of its Maker—by giving it wings, for independent motion, and means to adhere to the fuci, when support is necessary to it, or it takes its food—has thus provided amply for its enjoyment and sustenance. The great peculiarity of the latter, the Tethys, is a mantle which extends above and beyond the head, like that of some marine goddess, concealing it entirely, and forming an ample veil, fringed or undulated at its margin. By the help of this veil they elevate themselves to the surface, and probably sail on the waters. This animal is nearly related to the *Laplysia*, a kind of sea-slug, like which it lives in muddy places, and ejects

Fig. 41.



Laplysia.

a black fluid; it is very foetid, and its flesh is poisonous. It only rises to the surface in the hot season.

I shall next notice a tribe of Gastropods, which at first sight, considering the number of pieces of which their shelly covering is composed, seems to belong to the multivalves, amongst which Linné has placed it. It will be readily perceived that I am speaking of the *Chiton*, or *coat-of-mail* shell, but when the animal that it covers is examined, it will be found that, notwithstanding its multivalve shell, it really belongs to the Gastropods.

These animals are generally found under stones, sometimes they adhere to the surface of rocks, and sometimes conceal themselves in their fissures: they often traverse vast tracts of ocean, fixed to the keels of ships; like some of the limpets they fix themselves a good way out of the water, so as