they most probably do, it must act the part of a mould, upon which the operculum is formed from its mucus, and increased as the aperture enlarges.

Lamarck is of opinion that the shell of univalves is formed in a similar way upon the *neck* of the animal, which in the *Murices* or rock-shells, and other tribes distinguished by spines or tubercles, has certain fleshy processes which produce those spines, &c., and is withdrawn when they have acquired consistence enough not to bend when thus left to themselves. Other conchologists, particularly one of the most eminent of our times, Poli, think that the shells of univalves are organized bodies, and produce their spines as vegetables do their prickles; he says also that their shells contain cellular membranes almost like a *Rete mucosum.*

In the progress of a shell's growth, as new spines are formed old ones drop off; how this is effected seems not to be accounted for by either hypothesis—it is analogous, however, in a great degree, to what was mentioned above with regard to the holes in the shell of the sea-ear, only that with them an old hole is stopped up, when a new one is formed. All that can be said on the subject is, that the animal, instructed by Providence, as new processes are formed and a new whirl of its shell completed, is enabled to throw off by a solvent, or some other means unascertained, those that are no longer wanted.

It is observable that the terrestrial univalves,* of this order, are never armed with spines, tubercles, or other elevations, but exhibit generally a levigated shell. As they move about usually amongst bushes, under moss, or in grass, the object of the Creator in this structure was probably that their motions might not be impeded by any roughness of their shell.

Mr. E. W. Brayley, in a very ingenious memoir, in the

* Helix, &c.