

attached its eggs; in some species they are contained in little membranous bags or sacs. It is thought that the young animals, when liberated from these bags or chambers, ascend their mother's float, and so are transported to the surface. Fishes are enabled to rise to the surface of the water by means of their air-bladders, and some radiaries by a vesicle which surmounts them,\* but neither of them are more singular than these outriggers by which the vessel of the violet-snail is kept both buoyant and steady.

The foot of the Molluscans, when we first observe it, seems to us merely an organ of locomotion, nothing remarkable in its structure, and incapable of any multifarious action, but when we study the history of this and the preceding snail, we see that it is a most important organ, and which performs a greater variety of operations than almost any organ of any other animal. We have seen that it spins a fine silk and thread; that it secretes a fluid serviceable for several purposes; that it can form a float, as in the present instance; that it can be used as a hand in excavating and building, and various other manipulations, so that in giving them this instrument and endowing it with such variety of functions in the various tribes, their Creator gave them everything they wanted.

Perhaps the followers of Lamarck may say that, in the present instance, the animal constructs its own float itself, at the impulse of its own wants. But uninstructed by its Creator, how could it learn that vesicles full of air would serve to float its little boat? and if not already organized to answer the impulse of an exciting cause, in vain would the will of the animal, if so instructed, endeavour to produce and inflate the vesicles, or, when it willed to sink, to empty them of air.

The shell-fish of the aquatic tribe best known in this

\* See above, p. 199.