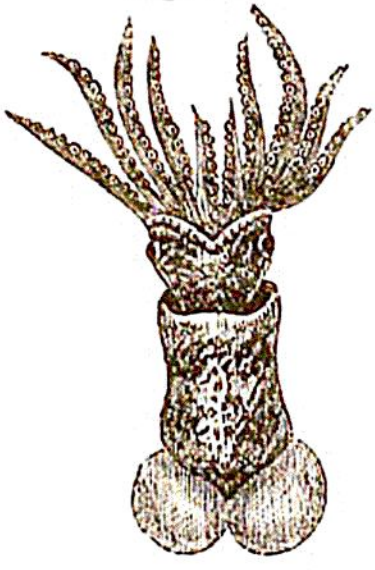
two pieces of the forceps, so that it cannot bite; thus at last, it is brought within the action of the powerful beak of the cuttle-fish, which soon makes its way through its crust, and devours it, shell and all. Even when at a distance, by means of its long arms, the cuttle-fish can lay hold of it and drag it towards it; and the poulpe, which has not these arms, makes up for it by having longer legs.

The argonaut probably uses similar means to master its prey, and finds some defence in its shell, but the nautilus has a still stronger castle, which it may be supposed defies the bite of the Crustacean; its oral organs are calculated for closer combat, but the tentacles appear less adapted for holding fast their prey, not being visibly furnished with suckers, but what they want in power is made up in numbers, since, in lieu of eight or ten tentacular organs, they have nearly a hundred. So diversified are the ways and instruments by which infinite WISDOM, POWER, and GOODNESS enables its creatures to fulfil the ends for which he created them: and so an equilibrium is maintained in every part of creation.

Fig. 48.



Loligo cardioptera.

The fossil species are mostly called by one name, *Ammonites*, as if they were the horns of the Egyptian Jupiter, and which, if any of them are now in existence, probably frequent the depths of ocean, and do not, like the argonaut or nautilus, visit its surface, to tell an admiring world that God has created such wonderful beings. Specimens have been found of the enormous diameter of six feet. Though the sculpture of many of these great cephalopods gives reason to think that they may be intermediate between the argonaut and nautilus, yet the convolutions and exter-