

ments of the animal, which being encased in a kind of coat of mail, it seems requisite that both its locomotive and oral organs should be similarly defended, and in this case, unless they had been jointed, they would have lost their flexibility, and so could not have exercised the functions assigned to them by their Creator. It may, perhaps, be objected, that the shell of the snail is nearly as hard as the crust of the lobster; but when we consider that the former, when moving, can thrust forth the greatest part of its soft body, as it were from a house, while the crust of the other is really its skin, this objection seems to vanish.

3. *Suckers*.—The organs I am next to consider, *acetabula*, or suckers, are, in many cases, so intimately connected with tentacles, as to form the most essential feature of them, without which they can be of no use. In fact, in the Cephalopods, they bear the same relation to the organ just named that the hand or foot does to the arm or leg, or the fingers and toes to the hand, in higher animals: they are the part by which the animal takes hold of what it wants to seize; and by the alternate fixing and unfixing of which, upon a solid substance, it moves from place to place. A sucker* may be defined—an organ by which an animal is enabled to create a vacuum between it (the organ) and any surface on which it rests, so as to produce a pressure of the atmosphere upon its upper part, and thus causing it to adhere firmly.

Cuvier, speaking of the suckers of the Cephalopods, thus describes their action. When the animal approaches one or more of its suckers to a surface, in order to apply it more intimately, it presents it flattened; when it is fixed to it by the perfect union of the surfaces, it contracts its sphincter, which produces a cavity, in the centre of which a vacuum is

* Suckers are denominated scientifically *Acetabula*, and *Cotylæ*, or *Cotyloid* processes.