

depths of the ocean, Professor Owen observes, that “both the respiration and nutrition of animals, which exist beneath a pressure of from sixty to ninety fathoms of sea-water, are subjects suggestive of interesting reflections, and lead us to contemplate with less surprise, the great strength and complexity of some of the minutest parts of the frame of these diminutive creatures. In the unbroken stillness which pervades those abysses, the existence of these animals must depend on their power of exciting a perpetual current around them, in order to dissipate the water laden with their effete particles, and to bring within the reach of their prehensile organs, the animalcules adapted for their sustenance.”

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#### FOSSIL SHELLS OF THE LAMELLIBRANCHIA.—

These are bivalve shells, the animals of which differ from the preceding class, as we have already stated, in performing respiration by means of lamellated gills. The valves are united by a strong substance, termed the ligament, which, by its elasticity, admits of the shells being opened to a considerable extent; and they are closed by powerful, short, thick muscles, called adductors. The shells of some of the genera, as the Oyster and Scallop, have but one muscle (*monomyaria*); others, as the Cockle, or Cardium, and Venus, have two (*dimyaria*); and by these characters the class is arranged in two groups.