

of the shell, and the entire or notched condition of its margin, and the presence or absence of a canal or siphon, always having relation to the soft parts of the animal, these characters afford data by which the genera and species of the shells may be determined, and information obtained as to the structure and economy of the originals.

The Gasteropoda generally creep by means of a fleshy disk, or foot, which is situated under the belly. Some kinds are terrestrial, others inhabit trees, many live in rivers and streams, others in stagnant and brackish waters; but the greater number are denizens of the sea.

The Common Snail, River Snail, and Periwinkle, are instances of terrestrial, fluviatile, and marine forms. The organs of respiration are situated in the last whorl of the shell; and in some genera the border of the mantle, or integument surrounding the body, is prolonged into a siphon, by which the water is freely admitted, without the head or foot being protruded: in these mollusks the shell has a corresponding channel to receive the siphon, as in the Whelk, or Buccinum, and in the fossil shell *Lign.* 95, fig. 4. The aquatic Gasteropoda are generally provided with an operculum, or moveable valve, by which the aperture is closed and defended when the animal retreats within its shell. In some species the operculum is a mere horny pellicle; in others it is a solid calcareous plate of considerable relative thickness. These mollusca, as is but too