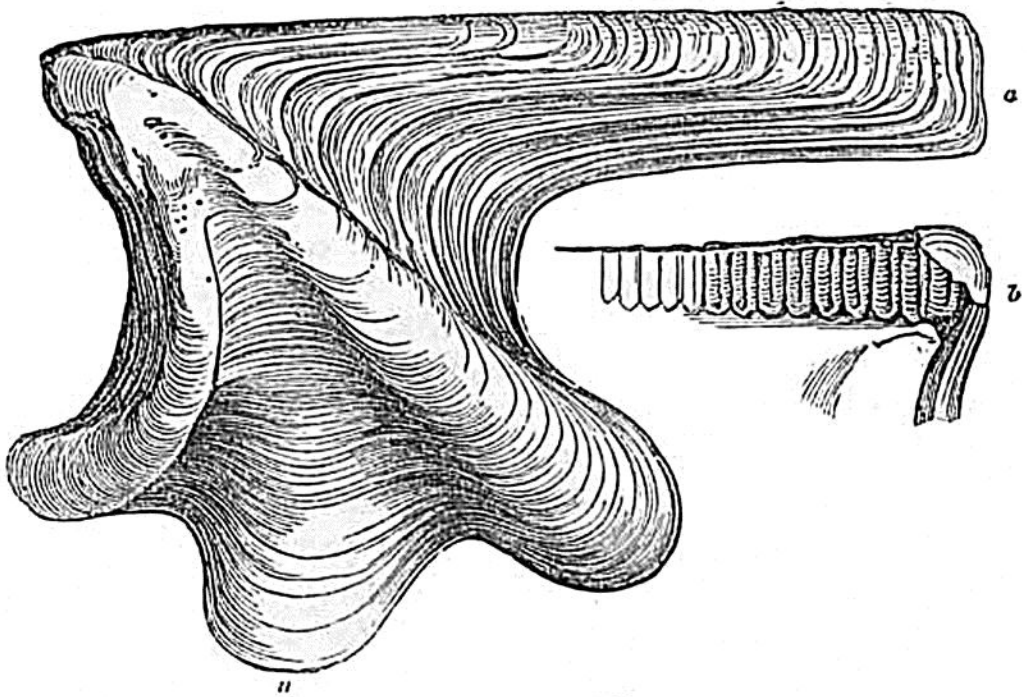


Fig. 296.



*Perna Mulleti*. Desh. in Leym.

a. Exterior.

b. Part of hinge of upper valve.

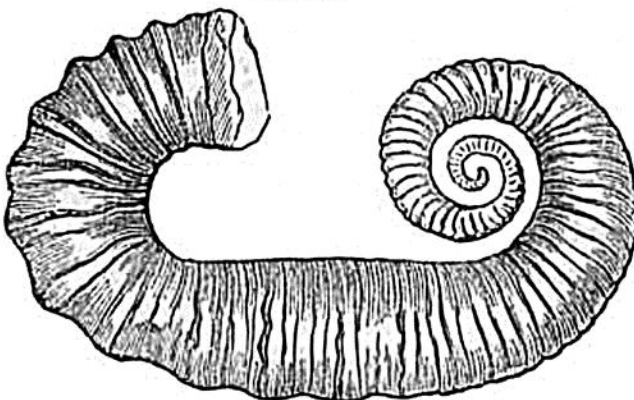
In the south of England, during the accumulation of the Lower Greensand above described, the bed of the sea appears to have been continually sinking, from the commencement of the period, when the freshwater Wealden beds were submerged, to the deposition of those strata on which the gault immediately reposes.

Pebbles of quartzose sandstone, jasper, and flinty slate, together with grains of chlorite and mica, speak plainly of the nature of the pre-existing rocks, from the wearing down of which the Greensand beds were derived. The land, consisting of such rocks, was doubtless submerged before the origin of the white chalk, a deposit which originated in a more open sea, and in clearer waters.

The fossils of the Lower Cretaceous are for the most part specifically distinct from those of the Upper Cretaceous strata.

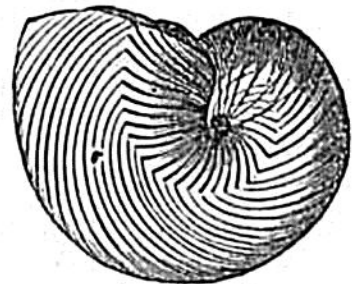
Among the former we often meet with the genus *Scaphites* (fig. 297)

Fig. 297.



*Scaphites gigas*, Sow. Syn. *Ancylloceras gigas*, D'Orb.

Fig. 298.



*Nautilus plicatus*, Sow., in Filton's Monog.