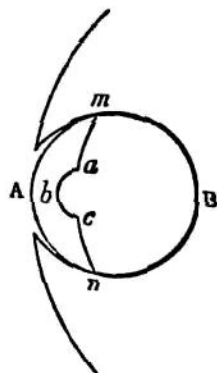


D E a sort of *selvage*, where all the fibres end; and these selvages, being circles, fill up, as it were, or compose the flat surface of the lens.

The coats, or laminae, consist of fibres different from those of all other animals. When other lenses harden, they form a solid body, transparent like a *gum*; but the cuttle-fish retains its laminated structure, and shines with all the brilliancy of a *pearl*.

In the *Sepia Electona* the front lens A separates from B in the line *m a b c n*, a peculiarity which I have never found in the *Sepia Loligo*. The diameter A B is larger than *m n*.



It would be curious to find the lenses in a fossil state.

I have found some lenses of the *Sepia Loligo* of a paraboloidal form. It is probable that the form of the lens varies with the age of the animal.

When the lenses become indurated, they often exhibit the most beautiful internal reflections, and I have often thought of having them set as brooches. The *pearly* structure is produced by long exposure under ground; and it is almost impossible to distinguish such lenses from *pearls* when the convex part only is shown.—I am, my dear Sir, ever most truly yours,

D. BREWSTER.

TO HUGH MILLER, Esq.