

staring out from either side of the head, between the bases of the arms, is a pair of large glassy eyes, which send a shudder over the beholder. At the bottom of the sea the poulp turns its eight arms downward, and walks like a huge submarine spider, thrusting its arms into the crevices of the rocks, and extracting thence the luckless crab that had thought itself secure in its narrow retreat from the



Fig. 46. Section through the shell and animal of the Pearly Nautilus (*Nautilus pompilius*).

attacks of so bulky a foe. This is the "Devil Fish" so graphically but so unscientifically described by Victor Hugo. Each of the arms is covered with what are called suckers, designed for producing adhesion to the object grasped. Each sucker consists of a little, elevated, circular horny ridge, forming a little cup, closed at the bottom by a flexible membrane which is attached to the arm by a stem. The consequence is, that when the arm is pressed upon an object, the bottom of each cup, like a piston, is pressed inward by the action of the stem or piston-rod, which is moved by the pressure of the arm. The effort to escape from the grasp of this arm withdraws the piston back to the bottom of the cup, thus producing a vacuum within, and causing a suction which effectually retains the object. Could any piece of mechanism be more admirable?