

termed the *Epidermis*, *Cuticle*, or *scarf-skin*; and between these there is often found an intermediate layer denominated the *Rete Mucosum*, or the *Pigmentum*.

The corium is generally of considerable thickness, and is composed of strong and tough fibres, closely compacted together, and pervaded by innumerable ramifications of blood-vessels of every kind. It is endowed with great flexibility, and is capable of being considerably extended; properties which fit it for readily accommodating itself to all the movements of the body and limbs, and to the variable bulk of the parts it covers. Being also very elastic, it soon regains its natural form and dimensions, when left to itself after being stretched. The skin is connected with the subjacent muscles and other parts by a large quantity of cellular texture, which, according to the particular intentions of its formation, sometimes binds it tightly over these parts, and on other occasions allows of a free and extensive motion. This latter property is remarkably exemplified in the *Raccoon*, an animal whose skin hangs loosely on the limbs, and encloses the body like a wide elastic garment; so that, however firmly a person may attempt to grasp the animal by the neck, it can easily turn its head completely round, and bite the fingers that are holding it. In like manner the skin of the frog is attached to the body only at a few places, and may be readily stripped off. A thin layer of muscular fibres is often found lying immediately underneath the skin, and is provided for the purpose of moving it over the subjacent parts. In animals that roll themselves into a ball, as the hedge-hog, these muscles are of great size and importance. We shall see that in the *Mollusca*, this muscular apparatus is inseparably blended with the integument, and composes a peculiar structure, termed the *mantle*. Immediately covering the corium is the *Rete Mucosum*, which is a very thin layer of soft animal matter, composed of a network of delicate fibres, and containing more or less of the material from which the colour of the skin is derived.

The *Epidermis* is a membrane of a very peculiar nature, consisting of a thin expansion of albuminous matter, appa-