

the inner surface of the *Mitra*, the *Volute*, and other shells of a similar kind, there is deposited a layer of a hard semi-transparent calcareous material, having a vitreous appearance.\* The thickness of the layer, which thus lines the cavity of the shell, is greater as it approaches the apex; and where the spire is much elongated, or *turrited*, as it is called,† this deposition entirely fills the upper part, which, in the early condition of the shell, was a hollow space with thin sides. The purpose answered by this deposit is evidently to give solidity and strength to a part which, by remaining in its original state, would have been extremely liable to be broken off by the action of the sea.

In other cases a different expedient is adopted. The animal, instead of fortifying the interior of the apex by a lining of hard shell, suddenly withdraws its body from that part, and builds a new wall or partition across the cavity, so as to protect the surface thus withdrawn. That portion of the shell which is thus abandoned, being very thin and brittle, and having no support internally, soon breaks off, leaving what is termed a *decollated* shell; examples of this occur in the *Cerithium decollatum*, the *Bulimus decollatus*, &c. The young of the genus *Magilus* has a very thin shell of a crystalline texture; but when it has attained its full size, and has formed for itself a lodgement in a coral, it fills up the cavity of the shell with a glassy deposit, leaving only a small conical space for its body; and it continues to accumulate layers of this material, so as to maintain its body at a level with the top of the coral to which it is attached, until the original shell is quite buried in this vitreous substance.

The forms of the *Cone* and *Olive shells* are such as to allow but a small space for the convolutions of the body of the animal, which accordingly becomes in the progress of its enlargement, excessively cramped. In order to obtain more space, and at the same time lighten the

\* This is the substance represented at n, Fig. 107, p. 170.

† As in the genera *Turritella*, *Terebra*, *Cerithium*, and *Fusciolaria*.