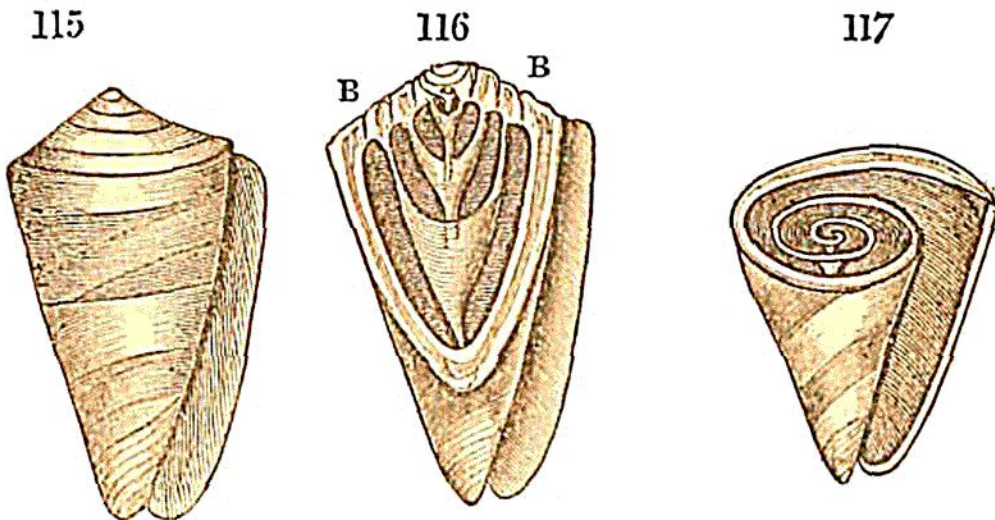


shell, the whole of the two exterior layers of the inner whorls of the shell are removed, leaving only the interior layer, which is consequently very thin when compared with the other whorl, that envelops the whole, and which, retaining its original thickness, is of sufficient strength to give full protection to the animal. That this change has actually been effected is very distinctly seen in the *Conus* (Fig. 115) by examining a vertical section of that shell, as is represented in Fig. 116. All the inner partitions of the cavity thus laid



open are found to be extremely thin and transparent, and to consist only of the innermost lamina of the original shell; as will appear on tracing them up to that outer portion of the section B B, which lies on each side of the proper apex of the shell, and which forms the apparent base. The lines on this part of the section indicate the thickness which each successive whorl had originally, and when it was itself the outermost whorl. The section also shows the vitreous deposit which lines the upper parts of the cavity, and which completely fills up the smaller turns of the spire, near the apex.\*

There are, indeed, instances among shells of the total removal of the interior whorls. This is found to occur in that of the genus *Luricula*, which are molluscous animals, re-

\* Fig. 117, which is a transverse section of the same shell, shows the spiral convolutions, and the comparative thinness of the inner portions. It also forms a striking contrast with a similar section of the shell of the *Cypræa*: Fig. 114.