

spiraling by means of pulmonary organs. In the young shell of this tribe, the partitions which separate the cavities of the whorls are incomplete, and twine parallel to each other; but they wholly disappear as the animal approaches to maturity. In other cases, the animal is found to remove exterior portions of shell formerly deposited, when they lie in the way of its farther growth, and when the mouth of the spire is advancing over the irregular surface of the preceding whorls. Thus we often find that the ridges, ribs, or processes which had been deposited on the surface of the shells of the *Triton*, *Murex*, &c. are removed to make way for the succeeding turn of the spire. In other cases, however, no such power of destroying portions of shell previously deposited seems to exist; and each successive whorl is moulded upon the one which it covers.

It may also be observed, that some mollusca have the means of excavating the shells of other animals on which they may choose to fix, for the purpose of forming a convenient lodgement for themselves. The *Pileopsis* (or fool's cap) has this faculty in a remarkable degree; and it is also met with occasionally in *Siphonaria* and *Patella*. The common *Patella*, or limpet of our own coasts, often, indeed, forms for itself, by some unknown process, a deep cavity out of a calcareous rock.

When the animal which inhabits a spiral shell retires within it, the only part of its body that is exposed to injury is that which is situated at the mouth of the shell. With a view to its protection, it constructs, in many instances, a separate plate of shell, adapted to the aperture, and denominated an *Operculum*. This piece is constructed by a process similar to that by which the rest of the shell is formed; that is, by the deposition of successive layers on the internal surface, sometimes in an annular, and sometimes in a spiral form.

118



119



Figure 118 exhibits the lines which appear on the inner side of the operculum of the *Turbo*, and which indicate the