

sion that had taken place between the epiphragma and the sides of the aperture; and the former is, by the pressure of the foot of the snail, thrown off. The whole of this process of construction has to be renewed, on every occasion when another covering is required.\*

One great use of these coverings is to prevent evaporation from the surface of the body of the animal. It is thus that Snails, *Bulimi*, &c. may be preserved for months, and even years in a torpid, but living state, ready to be restored to the active functions of life, when sufficient water is supplied.†

The enlargement of bivalve shells is conducted on the same principles as that of univalves; the augmentation of bulk taking place principally at the outer margin of each valve, and corresponding with the growth of the included animal. The order of succession in which the layers are deposited is clearly indicated by the lines on the surface, which frequently appear of different hues from the addition of colouring particles secreted at particular periods by the mantle.

The shells of Oysters and other acephalous mollusca which adhere to rocks, are often moulded, during their growth, to the surfaces to which they are applied. The mantle, being exceedingly flexible, accommodates itself to all the inequalities it meets with, and depositing each successive layer of shell equally on every part, the figure of the surface is assumed, not only by the valve in contact with it, but also by the other valve, which is formed by the opposite surface of the mantle,‡ and which during its formation was immediately superposed on the thin edge of the other valve, while it was deflected by the irregular surface on which it grew. As the enlargement of the shell proceeds, it was necessary that the muscle, which closes the valves, and is attached to

\* An epiphragma differs from true shells in having no adhesion in any part to the animal which formed it.

† A remarkable instance of this apparent reviviscence of snails, which had lain for many years in a dormant state in a cabinet of shells, and which crawled out on being accidentally put into warm water, is recorded in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1774, p. 432.

‡ DeFrance, *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, ii. 16.