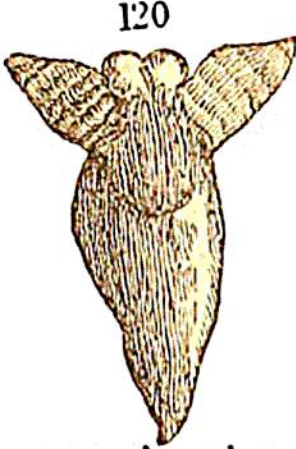


employ them as oars for the purpose of enabling the animal to swim through the water.

Mollusca of this description are found in great abundance in the colder regions of the ocean surrounding both the



north and south poles; and other species are also met with, though in smaller numbers in the tropical seas. The *Clio borealis*, of which Fig. 120 is a representation, is the most perfect specimen of this form of construction. It swarms in the Arctic seas, and constitutes the principal food of the whale. The position of its gills, which perform the office of oars or feet, at the

same time that they resemble in their shape and action the wings of an insect, are characters which have suggested the title of *Pteropoda*, given by Cuvier to this order of Mollusca.

§ 6. *Cephalopoda*:

FOLLOWING the progress of organic development, we now arrive at a highly interesting family of Mollusca, denominated the *Cephalopoda*, and distinguished above all the preceding orders by being endowed with a much more elaborate organization, and a far wider range of faculties. The *Cephalopoda* have been so named from the position of certain organs of progressive motion, which are situated on the head, and like the tentacula of the Polypus, surround the opening of the mouth. (See Fig. 121.) These feet, or arms, or tentacula, if we choose so to call them, are long, slender, and flexible processes exceedingly irritable, and contractile, in every part, and provided with numerous muscles, which are capable of moving and twisting them in all directions with extraordinary quickness and precision. They are thus capable of being employed as instruments, not only of progressive motion, but also of prehension. For this latter purpose they are in many species peculiarly well adapted, because being perfectly flexible as well as highly muscular,