

section through it: (Fig. 125.) Some, however, as the *Argonaut*, or *Paper Nautilus*, have shells undivided by partitions; and are accordingly termed *unilocular* or *monothalamous*. The shell of the Argonaut is exceedingly thin, and almost pellucid, probably for the sake of lightness, for it is intended to be used as a boat. For the purpose of enabling the animal to avail itself of the impulses of the air, while it is thus floating on the waters, nature has furnished



it with a thin membrane, which she has attached to two of the tentacula, so that it can be spread out like a sail to catch the light winds which waft the animal forwards on its course. While its diminutive bark is thus scudding on the surface of the deep, the assiduous navigator does not neglect to ply its tentacula as oars on either side, to direct, as well as accelerate its motion. No sooner does the breeze freshen, and the sea become ruffled, than the animal hastens to take down its sail, and quickly withdrawing its tentacula within its shell, renders itself specifically heavier than the water, and sinks immediately into more tranquil regions beneath the surface.*

The common Nautilus, which is provided with a similar sailing apparatus, is an inhabitant of a polythalamous shell, (Fig. 126,) of which Fig. 127 represents the section. The formation of this, as well as of other shells of this description, presents very curious phenomena. The animal at certain periods of its growth, finding itself cramped in the nar-

* It must be confessed, however, that the habits of the Argonaut are still very imperfectly known. Considerable doubts are entertained whether the shell it inhabits is formed by the animal itself, or whether it is the production of some other, but unknown species of Mollusca, and is merely taken possession of by the Argonaut as a convenient habitation, which it can quit and enter again at pleasure.