

row part of the spire, draws up that portion of the mantle which occupied it, thus leaving a vacant space. The surface of the mantle which has receded, immediately begins to secrete calcareous matter, which is deposited in the form of a partition, stretching completely across the area of the cavity. As the animal proceeds to increase in size, and to occupy a wider portion of the external shell, the same necessity soon recurs, and the same expedient is again resorted to. It withdraws its mantle from the narrower into the wider part of the shell; and then forms a second partition, at a little distance from the first, corresponding to the space left by the receding of the mantle. This process is repeated at regular intervals, and produces the multitude of chambers contained in polythalamous shells, of which the living animal occupies only the largest, or that which continues open.* The partitions are in general perforated either in the centre or at one side, for the purpose of giving passage to a tube, which extends to the apex of the shell. This tube is often surrounded either entirely or partially by shell, which forms what is denominated the *syphon*; portions of which are seen in the section Fig. 127.

* This structure is extremely prevalent in fossil shells: some of which are spiral, such as the *Cornu Ammonis*, while others are straight cones, such as the *Bacculite* and *Orthoceratite*. In most of these the partitions are very numerous, and have undulating surfaces.