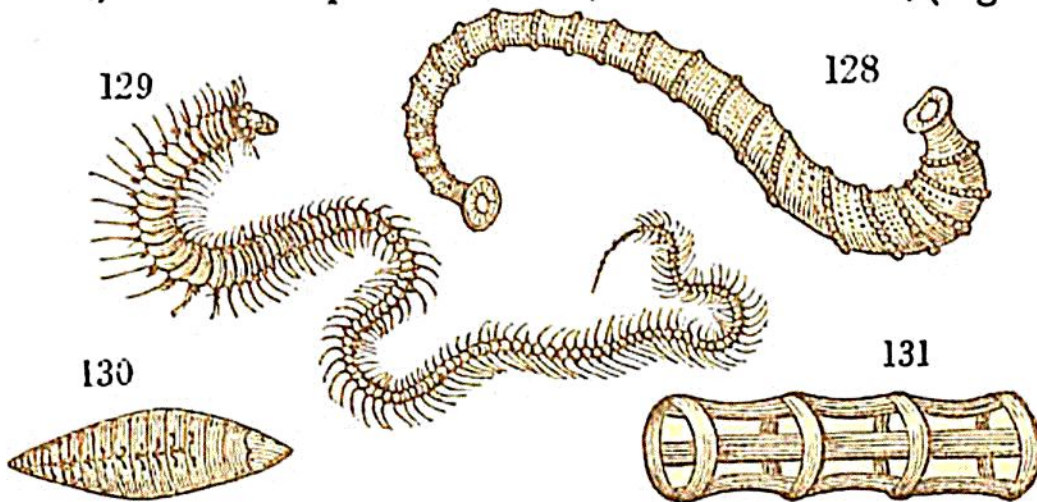


While in the Star-fish, and Echinus, nothing in point of situation was definite excepting the upper and the lower surface, and there was no side which could be exclusively denominated either the right or the left side, and no end that could be properly said to be the front or the back, in Articulated as well as in Vertebrated animals, all these distinctions are clearly marked and easily defined.

In all the *Annelida* the firmest parts of the body, or those which give mechanical support to the rest, are external, and may be regarded either as appendages to the integuments, or as modifications of the integuments themselves. They consist of a frame-work, composed of a series of horny bands or rings: their assemblage having more or less of a lengthened cylindric shape, and constituting a kind of external skeleton, which encloses all the other organs. This is exemplified in the earth-worm; in the *Pontobdella*, (Fig. 128,) which is a species of leech; and in the *Nereis*, (Fig.



129.) These rings give rise to the division of the body into as many different segments. In some cases, however, we find all these rings compressed into the form of a flat oval disk. This is the case in the *Erpobdella*, of which Fig. 130 is an enlarged representation.

In general, the first of the segments into which the body is divided contains the principal organs of sense, and is sufficiently distinct from those which follow to entitle it to the appellation of *the head*; while the lengthened prolongation of the opposite extremity, when such a form is present, may be denominated *the tail*.