

piration, with intestines which are very voluminous, a liver, lungs, and heart. Like the muscle, it is self-impregnated; and the shell, which the animal soon acquires, serves it for its future habitation. Like the muscle, it opens its shell to receive the influx of water; and, like that animal, is strongly attached to its shells both above and below.

Among the foremost of its differences, we may reckon that of the shape of the shells; those of the muscle being equally bulged alike, whereas the oyster has one nearly, if not entirely flat, the which is from necessity always kept upwards, as the other serves to hold the water requisite for its subsistence. The shells are also so thick and well lined, that, they appear perfectly well guarded against the attacks of the predatory tribe, and even the trochus will pass by them, in hopes of obtaining more easy prey. From their being perfectly stationary, a number of small reptiles cling to their shells, as the pipe and little red worms, and where they live in perfect security. The oyster is utterly unable to change its situation. It is entirely without that tongue which answers the purposes of an arm in the muscle; but nevertheless is often attached very firmly to any object.