

around the upper part of the body), are the most ancient, numerous, and interesting of this division of animated nature; and their fossil remains comprehend the most varied and striking forms of extinct beings that occur in the sedimentary strata, from the earliest Secondary to the latest Tertiary formations. The living species are but a feeble representation of the countless myriads which swarmed in the ancient seas; yet they afford important assistance in developing the characters of the numerous extinct genera, whose relics abound in the strata, and will continually be presented to the observation of the collector. It is therefore necessary to enter somewhat in detail on the structure of these beings, that the student may obtain a correct idea of the nature of the curious fossils, to which the mineralized remains of the durable parts of these animals have given rise, and whose origin has but lately been correctly ascertained. These mollusca are composed of a body which is either enclosed in a shell, as in the *Nautilus*, or contains a calcareous or cartilaginous part, as in the *Sepia*, or cuttle-fish; with a distinct head, and eyes as perfect as in the vertebrate animals; complicated organs of hearing; a powerful manducatory apparatus, surrounded by arms, or *tentacula*, serving for prehension.\* They have below the head a tube which acts as a locomotive instrument to propel the animal backwards, by the forcible ejec-

---

\* See a masterly notice of the Cephalopoda, in Professor Owen's Hunterian Lectures. 1843.