

we now see them, and that the surface of the earth received its present form.

The Tertiary epoch, or series, embraces three very distinct periods, to which the names of *Eocene*, *Miocene*, and *Pliocene* have been given by Sir Charles Lyell. The etymology of these names is derived—*Eocene*, from the Greek ἠώς, *dawn*, and καινός, *recent*; *Miocene*, from μείον, *less*, καινός, *recent*; and *Pliocene*, from πλείον, *more*, καινός, *recent*; by which it is simply meant to express, that each of these periods contains a minor or greater proportion of recent species (of Testacea), or is more or less remote from the dawn of life and from the present time;* the expressions are in one sense forced and incorrect, but usage has consecrated them, and they have obtained universal currency in geological language, from their convenience and utility.

* Lyell's "Elements of Geology," p. 187.



Fig. 148.—*Trigonía margaritacea*. (Living form.)