

The result of these structural dispositions for the history of the pedigree of Molluscs, which is confirmed by palæontology, is that Lamp-shells stand much nearer to the primæval root of the whole tribe of Molluscs than do the Otocardia. Probably Mussels and Snails developed as two diverging branches out of Molluscs, which were nearly akin to the Lamp-shells.

Mussels, or Plate-gills (*Lamellibranchia*), possess a bivalved shell like the Lamp-shells. In the latter, one of the two valves covers the back, the other the belly of the animal; whereas in Mussels the two valves lie symmetrically on the right and left side of the body. Most Mussels live in the sea, only a few in fresh water. The class is divided into two sub-classes, *Asiphonia* and *Siphonida*, of which the latter were developed at a later period out of the former. Among the *Asiphonia* are Oysters, mother-of-pearl Shells, and fresh water Mussels; among the *Siphonida*, which are characterized by a respiratory tube, are the Venus-shells, Razor-shells, and Burrowing Clams. The higher Molluscs seem to have developed at a later period out of those without head and teeth; they are distinguished from the latter by the distinct formation of the head, and more especially by a peculiar kind of tooth apparatus. Their tongue presents a curious plate, armed with a great number of teeth. In our common Vineyard Snail (*Helix pomatia*) the number of teeth amount to 21,000, and in the large Garden Slug (*Limax maximus*) to 26,800.

We distinguish two sub-classes among the Snails (*Cochlides*, or *Gasteropoda*), namely, the Stump-headed and the Large-headed Snails. The Stump-headed Snails (*Perocephala*) are very closely allied to Mussels (through the Tooth-shells),