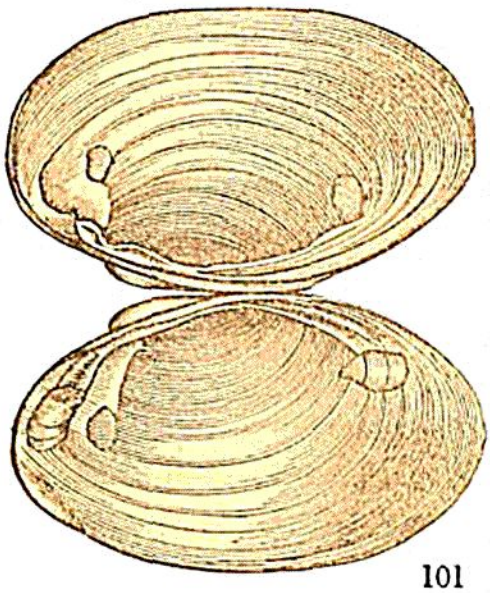
the separate pieces, in either case, being termed *valves;* so that shells may be either *univalve*, *bivalve*, or *multivalve*, according as they consist of one, two, or more pieces. Univalve shells have generally more or less of a spiral form, and are then called *turbinated shells*. In a few, the cavity of the shell is divided by transverse partitions into numerous compartments. Some Mollusca have internal shells for the defence and support of particular organs; and others have shells which are partly external, and partly internal. As respects their shape, colour, and appearance, shells admit of infinite diversity; yet, as will presently be shown, all are composed of the same kind of material; and their production and increase are regulated by the same uniform laws.

§ 2. *Acephala.*

The Mollusca which inhabit bivalve shells, such as the *Oyster*, the *Muscle*, and the *Cockle*, are all acephalous. The two valves of the shell are united at the back by a hinge joint, often very artificially constructed, having teeth that lock into each other: and the mechanism of this articulation varies much in different species. The hinge is secured by a substance of great strength. It is seen in Fig. 101, which shows the valves of the *Unio batava*, with the connecting ligament. This ligament is composed of two kinds of texture: the one which is always external, is strictly ligamentous; that is, perfectly inelastic: the other has more of the properties of cartilage, being highly elastic, and formed of parallel series of condensed transverse fibres, directed from the hinge of one valve to the similar part of the other, and having generally



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