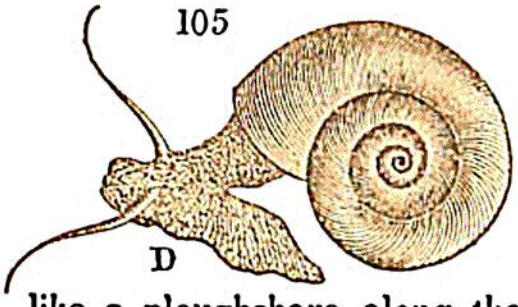
ranean, these threads have been manufactured into gloves, and other articles which resemble silk.

§ 3. *Gasteropoda.*

The Mollusca which inhabit univalve or turbinated shells, belong to the order of *Gasteropoda*, and have a more highly developed organization than the Acephala. The part which performs the office of a foot is a broad expansion of fleshy substance, occupying nearly the whole under surface of the animal, and forming a flat disk, capable of being applied to the plane along which it moves. This is seen in the *Planorbis* (Fig. 105, D.) In some species it is fashioned into a projecting ridge, which cuts its way, like a ploughshare, along the surface on which it moves. The bands of muscular fibres, which compose the principal part of its structure, are short, and are interlaced together in a very intricate arrangement. All the columns of their fibres terminate at the surface of the disk; so that when the animal is crawling, their successive actions produce a visible undulatory motion of that surface. The effect of these actions is that different parts of the plane on which it moves are laid hold of in succession, and each corresponding portion of the animal is dragged along, so that the body advances by a slow and uniform gliding motion. The operation of this mechanism may easily be seen in a snail, by making it crawl on a pane of glass, and viewing the movement of its disk from the other side of the glass: the regular undulations which advance in the direction of the motion of the snail, but with twice the velocity, present a curious and interesting spectacle.



A mucilaginous secretion generally exudes from the surface of the disk, and tends to increase considerably its

ceived that these threads are dried muscular fibres; an opinion which has been adopted by Blainville.