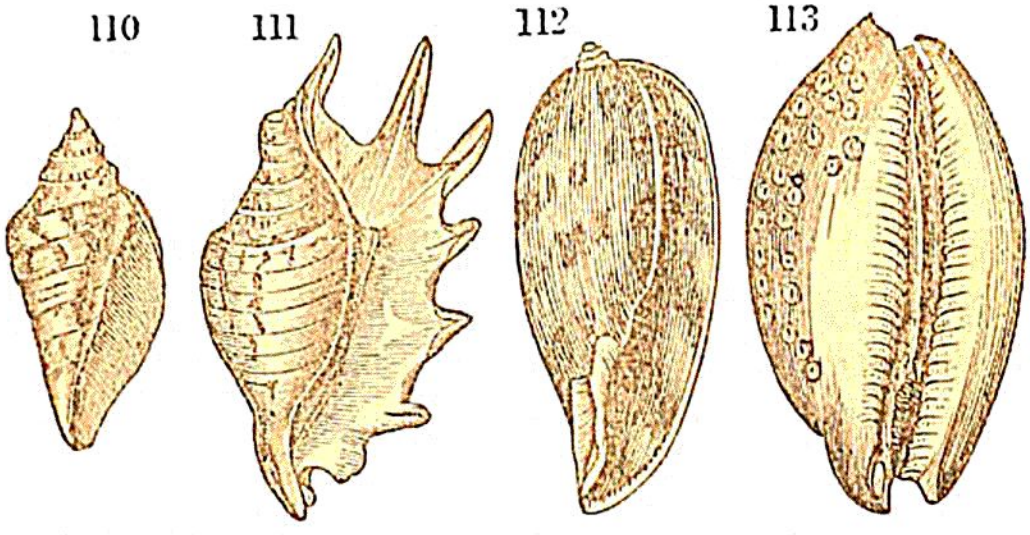
gradually filled up by these deposites; the process of the mantle retiring to make way for their advance towards the axis of the tube. In the course of time, every part of the cavity is obliterated, the process of the shell becoming entirely solid. Such is the origin of the many curious projecting cones or spines which several shells exhibit, and which have arisen periodically during their growth from their outer surface. In the *Murex* these processes are often exceedingly numerous, and occur at regular intervals, frequently shooting out into various anomalous forms. In many shells of the genus *Strombus* these spines are of great length, and are arranged round the circumference of the base, being at first tubular, and afterwards solid, according to the period of growth. This is exemplified in the *Pterocera scorpio* (Lamarck) of which Fig. 110 shows the early, and Fig. 111 the later period of growth.



A limit has been assigned by nature to the growth of molluscous animals, and to the shells which they form; and there is a certain epoch of their existence, when considerable changes take place in the disposition of the mantle, and in its powers of secretion. Often we find it suddenly expanding into a broad surface, adding to the shell what may be termed a large lip. Sometimes no sooner has this been accomplished than the same part again shrinks, and the mantle retires a little way within the shell, still continuing to deposite calcareous layers, which give greater thickness to the adjacent part of the shell; and at the same time nar-