row its aperture, and materially alter its general shape and aspect. Thus it happens that the shells of the young and of the old individuals of the same species are very different, and would not be recognised as belonging to the same tribe of mollusca. This is remarkably the case with the shell of the *Cypræa*, or Cowrie, which, in the early stage of its growth, (Fig. 112) has the ordinary form of an oblong turbinated shell: but from the process just described taking place at a certain period, the mouth of the shell (as shown in Fig. 113,) becomes exceedingly narrow, and the edges of the aperture are marked by indentations, moulded on corresponding processes of the mantle.* But in this instance the change does not stop here; for both edges of the mantle next take a wider expansion, turning over the outer surface of the shell, and passing on till they meet at the upper convex part, or back of the shell, forming what has been termed the *dorsal line*. They deposite, as they proceed, a dense and highly polished porcellaneous shell, beautifully variegated with coloured spots, which correspond exactly with the coloured parts of the mantle that deposites them. This new plate completely envelops the original shell, giving it a new covering, and disguising its former character. A transverse section, (Fig. 114,) at once shows the real steps by which these changes have taken place.†

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Changes equally remarkable are observed to occur in the interior of the shell at different stages of its growth. On

* Similar changes occur in the shells of the *Ovula* (spindles,) *Erato* (tear-shells) and *Marginella*, (dates.) Gray, Phil. Trans. for 1833, p. 792.

† According to Bruguiere, there is reason to believe that the animal of the *Cypræa*, after having completed its shell, in the manner above described, still continuing to grow, and being incommoded for want of space, quits its shell altogether, and sets about forming a new one, better suited to its enlarged dimensions. It is stated also that the same individual is even capable of forming in succession several shells. Blainville, however, considers it impossible that the living animal can ever quit its shell. Malacologie, p. 94.