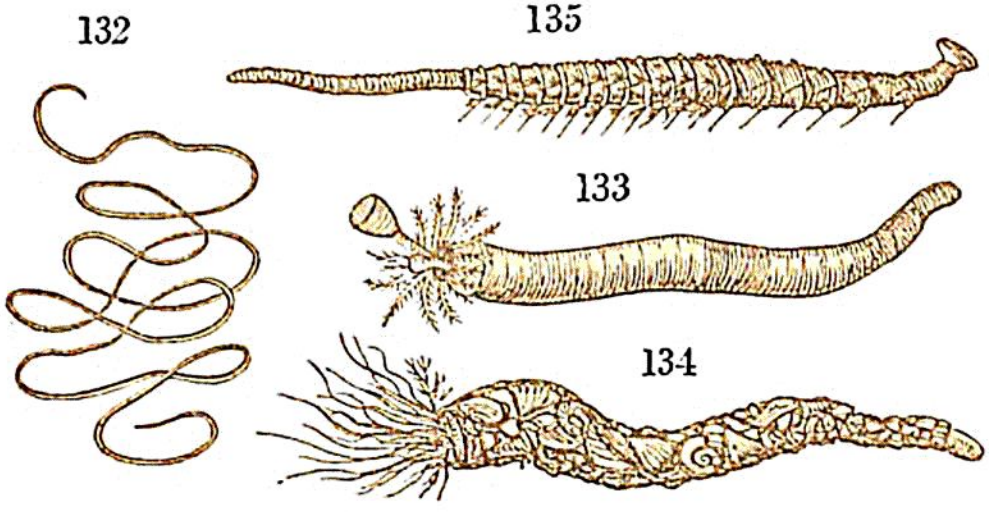
ceeding segments are necessarily elongated: these are next contracted; and so on, in succession, till the whole is brought forwards to the head: after which the same series of actions is repeated, beginning with the advance of the head. Worms often reverse this motion, and are thus enabled to move backwards, or with the tail foremost.*

Great variety exists in the forms of the animals referrible to the type of Annelida. The *Gordius*, or hair-worm, (Fig. 132,) is that which exhibits the greatest development in length compared with the breadth of the body. It has the form of a very long and slender thread: the annular structure being indicated only by very slight transverse folds of the integuments. No external members, nor even tentacula, have been given to this simplest of vermiform animals.



Many of the animals of this class being soft and defenceless, are obliged to consult their safety by retreating into holes and recesses, or by burrowing in the sand or mud. One genus only, the *Serpula* (Fig. 133,) forms for itself an external shell, which is shaped into a spiral tube. Others, as the *Sabella* and the *Terebella*, accomplish the same object by collecting grains of sand, or fragments of decayed shells, or other substances, which they agglutinate together by means of a viscid exudation, so as to form a firm defensive covering, like a coat of mail. Fig. 134 shows this rude architecture in the *Terebella conchilega*. These coverings, however, composed as they are of extraneous ma-

* See Home; Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, Vol. i. p. 114.