

rudiment of the shell becomes visible. The first trace is a large pit called the shell-gland on the back of the animal, mistaken by Brookes for the gut. This pit flattens out and forms on the second day a saddle-shaped area, at the sides of which two small calcareous particles (Fig. 2) show the incipient shell.

The shell grows larger day by day till on the sixth day it half covers the animal. On this day, the last to which the artificially reared larvae lived, the solid mass of cells originating from division of the larger blastonieres becomes hollowed out, and constitutes the stomach, and the mouth opening can be seen. There can also be seen behind the mouth on each side a little hollow vessel with a vibrating sphere within it. These are the otocysts, the so-called ears, which are found throughout all Mollusca in the region of the foot. As the Oyster has no foot they are not found in it when adult, and it is an interesting fact here recorded, so far as I am aware for the first time, that they are found in the larvae. They are called ears, but their principal function is not hearing, but keeping the animal informed of its position with regard to the vertical, and so enable it to balance itself. One is reminded of the fact that the semi-circular canals in the human ear have a similar function. The later larvae which were captured by the tow-net are characterised by possessing a straight hinge to the shell totally unlike the hinge of the adult. The front part of the animal can now be completely withdrawn within the valves. The ridge of skin bearing the powerful cilia, the prototroch, has grown into a pair of lobes and is now termed the "velum." It is suspected that the velum is later transformed into the palps when the Oyster settles down, but this so far as I know, has never been proved. The beginnings of the liver, as two yellowish out-growths from the sides of the stomach can be seen, and also the intestine can be made out.

A few words on the general situation of the Oyster Fishery in Canada may now be in place. Abundant oysters constitute one of the many gifts of Providence which made Canada a desirable place to live in.