

resembling the bill of a parrot, which is provided with a large fleshy tongue, rough with thorny prickles. Prof. R. Jones thus eloquently describes the action of a cephalopod: "Let the Poulpe touch its prey, it is enough; once a few of these tenacious suckers get firm hold, the swiftness of the fish is unavailing, as it is soon trammelled on all sides by the firmly holding tentacula, and dragged to the mouth of its destroyer. The shell of the lobster and crab is a vain protection, for the hard and crooked beak of the cephalopod easily breaks to pieces the frail armor."

The shell of the Polythalamous Cephalopod has also a siphuncle or tube opening through its chambers and connecting them together; this siphuncle is sometimes shelly, as in the float of the *Spirula Peronii*, of which we have several specimens, or membranous, as in the *Nautilus Pompilius*. By this wonderful contrivance the cephalopod of this order is enabled to walk about at the bottom of the sea, and to raise and sink itself with ease and comfort. In some cases the shell serves for a dwelling and float, as with the *Nautilus*; sometimes it is partly internal, or contained in the body of the animal, *e. g.* in the *Spirula Peronii*; and again it is sometimes internal, *e. g.* in the cuttle-fish, and hence it is vulgarly called the cuttle-fish bone.

We only refer in the present paper to one variety of a fossil of this order, found in the Arisaig rocks, reserving others more interesting, for a future communication. The specimens in question are *Orthocerata*. Were a nautilus shell uncoiled and straightened, an *Orthoceras* would be produced, with a somewhat too commodious upper chamber. The plainest appears to be the *Orthoceras laterale*. We have not been fortunate enough to meet with a gigantic specimen of this cephalopod, such as that met with at Closeburn, near Edinburgh, which is said to be as thick as a man's leg; but we have met with specimens of various dimensions, some of them