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THE CANADIAN OYSTER.

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The following paper contains some impressions on the Oyster Fishery of Canada, gained during a six-weeks' sojourn at the Canadian Marine Biological Station at Malpeque, P.E.I., during the summer of 1903. The Oyster, as most are aware, belongs to the bivalve section of the Mollusca or shell-fish, and is a relative of the Clam. This division of the Mollusca is usually designated Lamellibranchiata from the lamellar (plate-like) character of the gill. The shell is secreted by a fold of skin hanging down freely at the side of the body, termed the *mantle*, and the bivalve character of the shell is due to the fact that in Lamellibranchiata the mantle consists of a right and left fold, each of which secretes one valve of the shell, whilst the flexible horny hinge which unites the two valves is secreted by the skin of the back of the animal, just between the points of origin of the two folds constituting the mantle.

The Oyster however differs from the Clam and indeed from most of the Lamellibranchiata in several important respects. As a rule in bivalve Mollusca both valves are precisely similar in size and shape, and the animal during life assumes an upright position with