

wanting the nacreous lustre, and being apparently an animal feeder, are sufficient in these cases to prevent mistake.

Among shell characters of most real importance are differences in the form of the mouth, especially the absence or presence of a channel and of appendages, and the mouth being circular or nearly so and complete all round, or pressed against the next whorl so as to become lunate, or for the circle to seem broken; the growth appearing to be uniform or interrupted, a special border being then formed to the mouth at the completion of each period, and the old borders remaining as ornaments on the shell; the absence or presence of tooth-like processes about the mouth, and of folds on the columella, and differences in the substance of the shell itself. Here, however, it must be noted that the channel in the border being accommodated to the opening of the Siphonal canal only indicates its existence and direction. This canal is connected with a burrowing habit, but it is possible for it to be present or absent in animals connected by much more important particulars of structure, so that we cannot implicitly rely upon it in our attempts at natural grouping. The presence, number, and peculiar form of the *Varices* or remains of former borders of the aperture may be good generic characters, but could not lead to higher combinations. Folds on the columella are deserving of much attention as auxiliary characters. Tooth-like projections of shelly matter are always of interest, but must be employed with great caution, more especially as our knowledge does not enable us to connect them with any structural peculiarity or special habit of the animal. *Monoceros* is scarcely now admitted as a genus, and its supposed species hardly even all belong to the same genus. Curious tooth-like projections variously placed around the aperture adorn numerous species of *Helicidae* and *Auriculidae*, but their systematic value, beyond characterising species, is very doubtful.

A class of characters much and justly valued since attention has been called to it and offering great assistance in the determination of natural families, is derived from the *operculum*; its absence or presence, its substance whether shelly or horny, and the mode of its formation whether from a marginal or a central nucleus, as well as its figure.

A still more important class of characters is derived from an organ characteristic of the higher (the cephalous) Molluscos animals and used by them in obtaining or preparing their food, which has been called their tongue or lingual ribband, but which needs an express name and should be spoken of by that which Huxley has proposed;