

WORKS OF REFERENCE.

- The Oyster, Clam, and other Common Mollusks. By Alpheus Hyatt. Boston, 1884, 12mo., 65 pp., many figures.
- On the Rate of Growth of the Common Clam, etc. By John A. Ryder. Bulletin U. S. Fish Commission, Vol. V., 1885, pp. 174-176.
- On the Green Coloration of the Gills and Palps of the Clam (*Mya arenaria*). By John A. Ryder. Bull. U. S. Fish Commission, Vol. V., 1885, pp. 181-185.
- The Clam Fisheries. Fishery Industries of the U. S., Sect. V., Vol. II., pp. 581-594.

24. *Mya truncata* Linnæus.

[*Mya*, perhaps the ancient *mus*; *truncata*, cut short.]

British Gaper.

DISTRIBUTION. (a) *General*.—Low-water mark to below one hundred fathoms. Cape Cod to Greenland. North European seas to Great Britain.

(b) *In Acadia*.—(in N. B.) Grand Manan, low-water mark, *Stimpson*. Shediac, *Whiteaves*. Not abundant on the southern coast. (In N. S.) Halifax Harbor, not uncommon, *Jones*. Not reported from Prince Edward Island. Probably not abundant on our coast.

HABITS. This species may be distinguished from the common Clam (*Mya arenaria*), by the shape of the valves, for in it the posterior end, or end from which the tubes protude, is cut sharply off, as its name signifies, and is not evenly rounded as in *Mya arenaria*. The posterior end also, even when the shell is closed, gapes widely open, instead of only slightly as an *Mya arenaria*; whence comes the name, given above, by which it is known in England. The epidermis is prolonged into a tube posteriorly helping to give the protection which is lost by the truncation of the shell. It is from two to three inches in length. In its habits it is not known to differ essentially from *Mya arenaria*.

ECONOMICS. It is probable that this species is often dug with and used for the same purposes as *Mya arenaria*. Indeed, as both are variable in form they frequently are much alike, and it is not probable that they are ever separated by the