

MONDAY AFTERNOON POPULAR LECTURES.

CONCHOLOGY.

By Rev. G. W. Taylor.

(Delivered March 10th, 1890.)

After some preliminary remarks concerning the scope of the study of Conchology and the best way to make a collection of shells, the lecturer proceeded to give an outline sketch of the classification of the Mollusca. He showed that they are divided into four large divisions, in accordance with the form and position of their organs of progression. These divisions are—

- I. CEPHALOPODA, as the Nautilus and Squid, which have their feet grouped around the head.
- II. GASTEROPODA, or stomach-footed, as the common snail which progresses by the regular movement of the muscles of the ventral surface.
- III. SCAPHOPODA, or boat-footed, a very small order containing only the *Dentalia* or Tooth Shells and their allies.
- IV. PELECYPODA, or axe-footed Mollusca. This order contains all the bivalves, such as oysters, clams, mussels, etc.

Under each of the heads an account was given of the anatomy, geological age and present distribution of some of the better known species, and attention was drawn to the importance of studying the animal of the different shells.

Before closing his interesting lecture Mr. Taylor went on to speak of the way in which the study of the variations of species in the mollusca brought the conchologist face to face with the great theories of evolution and development. He said:—"A paper on evolution was read before this Club a week or two ago and in the discussion that followed, a remark fell from one of the speakers concerning the *conflict* between evolution and theology. Now, as I know, that there are many of you who would hesitate to accept evolution, if at variance with theology, while there are others, perhaps, who would eagerly throw overboard their theology, if apparently contradicted by evolution. I think that it may be useful to state the opinion on these matters of one who has