

shells are, with few exceptions, univalve and spiral, often thin and delicate; sometimes, as in the genera *Strombus*, *Fusus*, *Conus*, and many others, thick and massive—weighty accumulations of carbonate of lime secreted from the sea-water. They have a distinct head, bearing organs of sense; but the character which most distinguishes them from their nearer allies is their mode of locomotion, which is by means of a long muscular plate secreting a viscid mucus running along beneath the body of the animal, and by alternate extension and contraction enabling it to creep over a solid surface. Most of these animals live on the bottom of the sea, as their organization demands. One or two only of the shell-making genera are pelagic, and the only important one of these is the genus *Janthina*, which inhabits a spiral shell, like a snail-shell, of a most lovely blue. *Janthina* floats by spreading out its “foot” on the surface, but it is more usually found attached to the different kinds of “Portuguese men-of-war,” *Velella*, *Physalia*, and *Porpita*, or in the Mid-Atlantic, in the wandering islands of gulf-weed. At certain seasons a peculiar kind of membranous float or raft is secreted from the animal, like a crescentic piece of honey-comb with the cells filled with air. The egg-sacs, which are not unlike those of the common whelk, are attached beneath the float; and when the float is complete, and the egg-sacs full, the creature disengages it, and leaves the eggs to be hatched as it drifts about on the surface in the warmth and sunlight.

The shells of *Janthina* are common in the globigerina ooze. They are not unfrequently cast up on the shore on the west coasts of Ireland and Scotland, and even on the Shetlands and the Faeroe Islands. They are not, however, inhabitants of our Northern Seas. They are drifted along and scattered about by our beneficent ameliorator, the Gulf-stream.

The HETEROPODA are very close to the GASTEROPODA, and in most modern works on zoology they are associated with them as a subclass. They are entirely pelagic, and as it is only un-