

ent parts of the body show iridescent blues and greens. Multitudes of these little things may now and then be seen on the surface of the water, fluttering with their wings and glittering in the sunshine; to be compared with nothing more aptly than with a congregation of the more dressy of the bombyx moths, as one sometimes comes upon them on a sunny morning just after a family of them have escaped from their chrysalides.

The Pteropods are much smaller than the larger forms among the Heteropods: the largest of the present day are not more than about an inch in length, though antediluvian species of the genus *Conularia* and its allies sometimes reached a length of nearly two feet. They make up for their small size, however, by their numbers. Everywhere in the high seas they absolutely swarm. They are not always to be taken in the towing-net, as they seem to have a habit, in the heat of the day and when there is any wind, of swimming a little way below the surface; but in a fine calm evening, no matter where, a haul of the towing-net can scarcely be made without catching many of them.

The most widely distributed species in the Atlantic seems to be *Diacria trispinosa*, with a little pocket-like shell of some

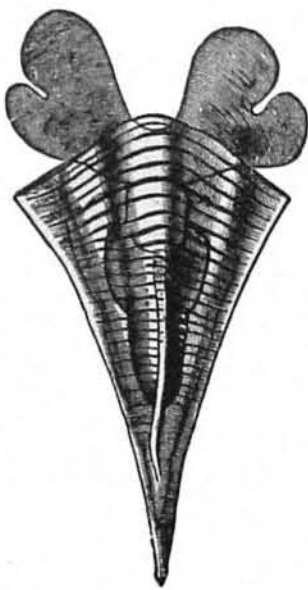


FIG. 25.—*Clio pyramidata*, BROWNE. Slightly enlarged. Surface. (No. 4.)

weight and strength, shaded purple and white. Several species of *Cavolinia* are abundant, the largest *C. tridentata*. *Clio cuspidata*, with a fretted shell whose ornament reminds one of some of the fossil genera, is perhaps the species most frequently seen on the surface, and the one which shows the iridescent coloring with the greatest brilliancy (Fig. 25). The several species of *Styliola*, much smaller than the others, are much more numerous, and sometimes throng the towing-net with their glassy needles. *Styliola subulata*, *S. acicula*, and