

E. Among the Gastropoda they do not constitute a distinct subclass, nor even an order.

F. They belong to the Euthyneura, and among these to the Tectibranchiate Opisthobranchs. They differ less from the Tectibranchs than these differ from the other Opisthobranchs. The different families which make up the Pteropoda must be distributed among the families of the Tectibranchia according to their special affinities.

G. The Pteropoda are polyphyletic in their origin ; in other words, the Thecosomata and Gymnosomata are two independent groups : they have not a common origin and they differ more from each other than each one differs from a group of Tectibranchs to which it is most closely allied.

H. The Thecosomata have descended from the Bulloidea.

I. The Gymnosomata have descended from the Aplysioidea.

### VIII. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

I have shown that the Pteropoda differ less from the Euthyneurous Gastropoda of the Tectibranchiate Opisthobranch group than these differ from the other Opisthobranchs, and that the different forms which have hitherto been united in one "class" Pteropoda find their natural places besides certain families of Tectibranchs. Furthermore, I have shown that the "Pteropoda" as a whole differ less from those Tectibranchs which are known as Cephalaspidea and Anaspidea (or Bulloidea and Aplysioidea respectively) than these together differ from the third group of Tectibranchs, Notaspidea (or Pleurobrancoidea).

In conclusion then I may say :—The Heteropoda were formerly regarded as a distinct class like the Pteropoda. But for a long time now they have been placed among the Gastropoda, the affinities having been recognised which they bear to the Streptoneura (or Prosobranchia), of which, to use the expression of Spengel, they are forms "modified by adaptation to a pelagic mode of life."<sup>1</sup>

I am strongly in favour of this mode of classifying the Heteropoda according to their natural affinities. Yet the Heteropoda are Gastropoda much more specialised in their organisation than are the Pteropoda ; and they exhibit differences from all the Streptoneura *much greater* than those which separate the Pteropoda from the Euthyneurous Gastropoda of the Tectibranchiate Opisthobranch group.

Henceforth, therefore, we should abstain from making a distinct class of the Pteropoda, but we should rather distribute the animals which have been called by this name among other groups, according to their natural affinities.

The table on the following page shows the manner in which I propose to classify the Pteropoda.

<sup>1</sup> Die Geruchsorgane und das Nervensystem der Mollusken, *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxxv. p. 343.