these specimens were not quite mature, the accessory nidamental glands being in fact little developed and scarcely visible in immature individuals.[1]

5. *Laying or deposition of the eggs.*—The manner in which the eggs are deposited is unknown. We know, however, that the eggs contained in the oviduct are rather large (Fig. R; Pl. IV. fig. 3, *ov.*) and with abundant vitellus, as the structure of the ovarian ovule shows, provided with a vitelligenous follicle with multiple folds in the interior of the eggs (Fig. V.). On the other hand, we may also infer that the eggs when once laid are enveloped in a rather thick coating, since *Spirula* is provided not only with an oviducal gland, but further with properly so-called accessory nidamental glands.

VII. Classification.

A dozen of different specific names have been applied to the shells of the genus *Spirula*. But even in the opinion of a conchologist[2]: "it is impossible to determine to which of the species (if they are distinct) the names *applied to the shells* belong."

On the other hand, the number of complete specimens of *Spirula*, which have been fully examined and described, is exceedingly limited (see Introduction). It results from this that there are no means of attaching a definite value to the names originally imposed or adopted, from the want of sufficiently distinctive characters.

In a provisional way I propose to consider the Challenger specimen as the type of the species *Spirula peronii*; the specimen described by Owen in 1879 as the type of the species *Spirula australis* (=*lævis*, Gray), to which the "Blake" specimen appears to be related; and lastly, Professor Giard's specimen as the type of the species *Spirula reticulata* (=*vulgaris*, Leach). So that we may establish provisionally the following table, which further knowledge and a comparison of future specimens may possibly modify:—

1. No distinct furrow separating the mantle from the disk. *Spirula peronii*, Lamarck (Pl. I. figs. 1–4).
2. Terminal disk separated from the mantle by a deep furrow.
   - A. Sub-epidermic reticulation not very distinct. *Spirula australis*, Lamarck (Pl. II. figs. 1–3).
   - B. Sub-epidermic reticulation very marked. *Spirula reticulata*, Owen (Figs. A, C, I, J, N).

[1] Brock, *op. cit.*, p. 72.
[2] Gray, Catalogue of the Mollusca, p. 115.