

In one family this organ is modified into an oar for swimming.

The *head* supports from two to six tentacula placed above, but never around the mouth: sometimes they are absent, —they perform the function of touch, and probably those of smell and taste.

The *eyes* are small, and two in number; sometimes they are sessile on the head, sometimes they are placed at the base, at the sides, or at the extremities of the tentacula, and sometimes they are absent.

The *nervous system* consists of several ganglia dispersed through the body, and of a bilobed brain which occupies the upper surface of the œsophagus; and this tube is encircled by a nervous ring; from the ganglia, nerves proceed to the special organs of sense, the foot, branchiæ, digestive and generative organs.

The superior part of the body is covered with a fleshy *mantle*, which assumes a variety of forms. Some gasteropods are naked, and others have a shell concealed in the mantle; but the greatest number have for the most part a univalved shell, into which the animal can retire. As this organ is the only part of their bodies preserved in a fossil state, it is important that the student should make himself acquainted with its anatomy.

We subjoin, in an extended form, an explanation of fig. 165, and a description of the separate parts of the shells there depicted, commencing with the univalves.

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| a. Spire (fig. 1) | r. Area, or anterior slope (fig. 7) |
| b. Body-whorl | s. Areola, or posterior slope |
| c. Beak | t. Umbones (fig. 8) |
| d. Base | u. Hinge |
| e. Canal | v. Ligament (fig. 2) |
| f. Aperture | w. Disk (fig. 7) |
| g. Labrum, or outer lip | x. Umbo |
| h. Labium, or columellar lip | y. Base, or Ventral Margin |
| i. Whorls, or Volutions | z. Height (fig. 9) |
| k. Sutures | á Length |
| l. Apex | b' Auricles |
| m. Back (fig. 3) | c' Left valve (fig. 2) |
| n. Varices | d' Right valve |
| o. Columella (fig. 4) | é Valves (fig. 10) |
| p. Septa (fig. 5) | f' Lunule, or anal depression (fig. 2) |
| q. Umbilicus (fig. 6) | g' Corselet, or escutcheon. |

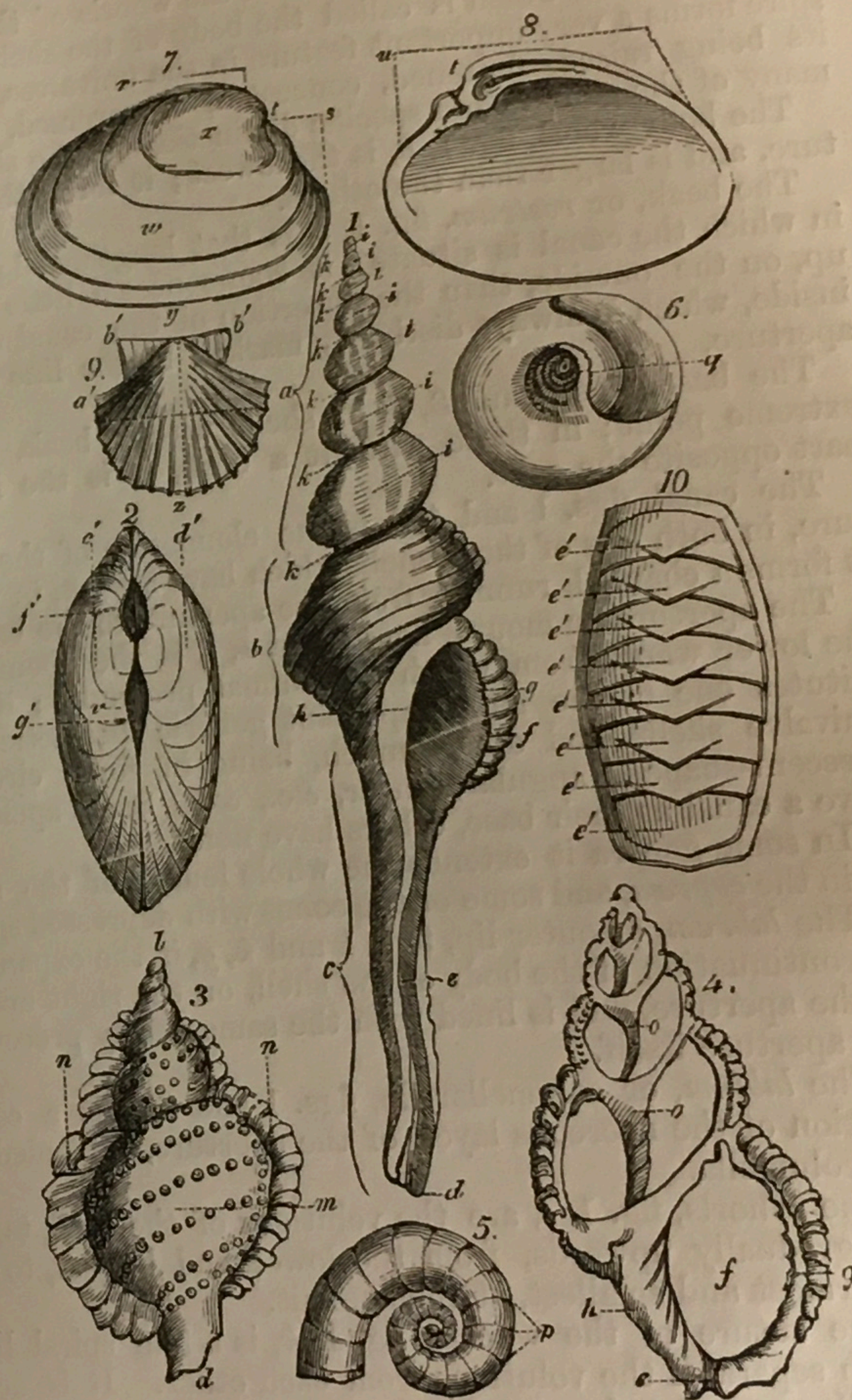


FIG. 165.