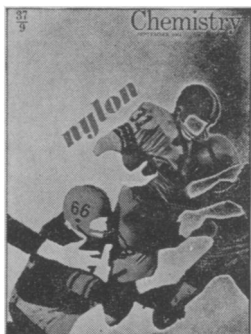


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## Nature Note

### Dunce-Cap Limpet

Tallest of the true limpets, the dunce-cap limpet lives along the north Pacific Coast and grows a pointed hat-like shell about two inches in diameter and one inch high.

Limpets are members of the phylum Mollusca, and belong to the class Gastropoda along with snails and slugs. These limpets are oceanic snails that feed on seaweed and other plants of the sea. They are easily recognized by a rounded or oval shell that rises to a central point like a miniature volcanic cone. Some species, called key-hole limpets, have a small opening at the top of the shell that resembles a volcanic crater.

Also included in the phylum Mollusca are the soft-bodied clams and oysters, slugs, snails, as well as squids and octopuses. The name of the phylum comes from the Latin word meaning soft.

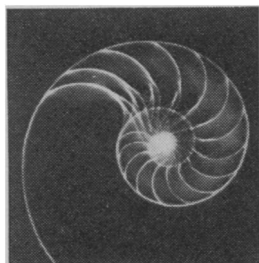
More than 40,000 different kinds of mollusks are known, living in places as high as the snow line of the Himalaya Mountains at an altitude of 16,400 feet and as low

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as bottom of the ocean at depths of about 17,400 feet.

Many mollusks protect their soft bodies with a shell, a covering of calcareous or lime material. This shell has been secreted in the muscular body covering called the mantle. Some mollusks have a foot that may be a simple fleshy organ for pushing, like the clam or a flat structure used for creeping, like the snail.

• Science News Letter, 88:382 December 11, 1965

### BIOTECHNOLOGY

## Multi-Level X-Ray Shows Ear Diseases

► EAR INJURIES, deafness and cancer of the hearing nerves can be readily diagnosed with a new multi-exposure X-ray machine, the Radiological Society of America was told in Chicago.

The machine, called a tomograph, has been modified to take four pictures on different planes with one exposure, by Drs. Marc S. Lapayowker, Henry J. Woloshin and Max Lee Ronis of Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia.

Film and X-ray tube revolve around a stationary patient. Only a specific section of body tissue is in focus. Several cases of bone decay have been discovered with this technique after conventional X-rays revealed no abnormality. Earlier diagnoses of cancer and congenital deafness are possible with the new tomograph.

More work is being planned in using this technique for diagnosis of otosclerosis, the most common cause of deafness in adults. In 75% of the cases diagnosed by the Temple team, the region of the disease has been well visualized.

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