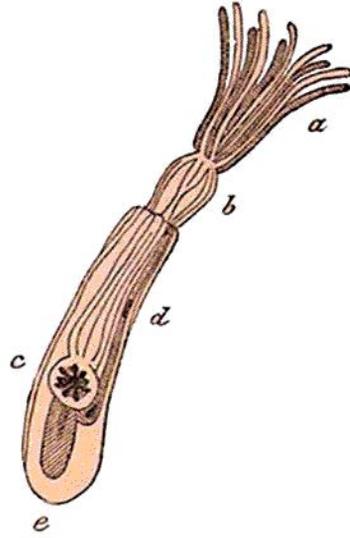


to perform the office of breathing organs by keeping up a constant current of water along their surfaces, which sets in towards the mouth in an invariable direction; and from the incessant revolution of particles within the mouth and the gullet, observed by Professor Grant, this organ seems to be also ciliated internally.

Fig. 3.



The more especial use of the tentacula is to arrest the prey which chance floats within their reach and conduct it to the mouth,—a simple aperture placed in the centre of the tentacular circle, and which is armless, having in no instance either jaws or teeth. It is the entrance into a long membranous gullet (*b*,) of perfect transparency, and which can be traced through its equally transparent envelope, to its termination in a somewhat globular and comparatively large organ placed near the curvature of the body, and rendered opaque partly by the greater thickness and fleshiness of its structure, but perhaps more so by the nature of its contents. This is the stomach (*c*,) and from the side of it there proceeds a narrow intestine (*d*,) which follows a straight upward course along the side of the gullet, and opens at the aperture of the cell by a separate orifice, from which the undigested remains of the food are ejected. There is another organ of a roundish figure appended to the bend of the intestine, which is supposed by some to be an ovarium (*e*,) but it seems not unnecessary to remark, that this appropriation of it to the generative function has perhaps no better proof than what is derived from a similarity of position between it and the supposed ovarium of the compound mollusca. It is, I presume, the organ which Blainville says he is willing to believe performs the functions of the liver,* an opinion in which I am disposed to concur.

see Dr Sharpey's article "Cilia" in the Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology, Vol. i. p. 609.

* Manuel d'Actinologie, p. 72.—In the Actinæ, Blainville adds, it is almost certain that there is no Liver; nor in the Hydraform polypes; but in the Penatulae "disséqués vivans ou très-frais, on remarque, dans les parois memes du corps de l'estomac, des rangées d'organes en forme de petites taches jaunâtres,