

instead of being a shapeless transudation from its body, is formed by successive additions of epidermoid membranes applied over each other in proportion as they are successively ossified. I have pointed out also that these polypi are merely microscopic fixed *Cephalopodes*, having, like the large species of this genus, a bag which is contained within the tube, an excremental funnel, ovaries, an intestinal canal with similar curvatures, and a head with all its accessories equally corresponding; so that, if the *Sepia*, for example, instead of having the dorsal part of its large bag ossified, had undergone the same change over the whole external circumference of this organ, and if its base had been fastened by an adhesive substance to a rock, it would have been exactly a gigantic polypus." —*New System of Org. Chem.* p. 281-2.—Obs. The species on which Raspail made these curious observations are not mentioned in the work from which the extract is taken: they are applicable only to the ascidian polypes, and were indeed derived from the *Alcyonella stagnorum*, as we learn from his Memoir on this species in the fourth vol. of "*Mém. Soc. Hist. Nat. de Paris.*"

2. *Dr Grant's Account of the Ova of the Flustræ.*

"Although the ova of *Flustræ* have been often observed, no one appears to have hitherto examined either their mode of formation within the cells, or their mode of development after expulsion, so as to determine the real nature of these globular bodies, and the erroneous conjectures of naturalists respecting them have greatly perplexed the history of this genus. The ova of the *F. carbasea* make their first appearance as a small yellow point, a little below the aperture of the cell, and behind the body of the polypus; they are unconnected with the polypus, and appear to be produced by the posterior wall of the cell, in the same manner as the axis, or common connecting substance of the polypi, produces them in other zoophytes. In this rudimentary state, they are found in the same cells with the healthy polypi, but, before they arrive at maturity, the polypi of such cells perish, and disappear, leaving the entire cavity for the development of the ovum. There is never more than one ovum in a cell, and it occupies about a third of the cavity, when full grown and ready to escape. When first visible, it has a round or slightly oblong and regular form; when mature, it is ovate with the small end next the aperture of the cell. The ova do not appear in all the cells at one time, nor is there any discernible order as to the particular cells which produce ova, or the part of the branch which contains them. Cells containing ova are found alike on every part of the branches, from the base to within two or three rows from the apex, occupied only by young polypi. Sometimes we find half a dozen or a dozen of contiguous cells all containing ova, sometimes two or three only; and often such cells occur singly, at short and irregular distances from each other. We find the ova in all stages of maturity on the same branch at the same time; and we seldom observe a specimen of the *F. carbasea*, during the months of February, March, and April, which does not contain numerous ova. The ova have a lively yellow colour; and when they occur abundantly on a specimen or a part of a branch, they cause it to exhibit the same lively hue, which is very different from the dull spotted brown appearance which the branches present at other seasons. Cells are often observed on different parts of the branches, containing neither polypi nor ova; but the fewness of these, and the great number of cells still containing only polypi at the season of generation, render it probable that polypi are regenerated in the