

polypi, though circumscribed, were so incessant, that by watching attentively I could observe them with the naked eye, and they became more conspicuous as the ova advanced to the open base of the stomach. From their restlessness, as they approached that last passage which separates them from the sea, they seemed to feel the impulse of a new element, which they were impatient to enjoy, and by following the direction of that impulse they appeared to find their way into the lower open extremity of the stomach, without any organic arrangement to lead them into that narrow canal. In their passage through the stomach, which was effected very slowly, the spontaneous motions of the ova were arrested, unless some imperceptible action of their ciliæ, or some contractions of their surface, might tend to irritate the sides of that canal, and thus direct or hasten their escape."

The native species referable to the Order are not well ascertained. They are apparently few in number, but belong to three distinct families.

Family I. PENNATULIDÆ.

Polype-mass free, pennated, carnous, the skin spiculiferous, the axis bony, simple, continuous: Polypes arranged along the margin of the pinnæ.

12. PENNATULA. Polype-mass plumous.

13. VIRGULARIA. Polype-mass linear-elongate.

Family II. GORGONIADÆ.

Polype-mass fixed, arborescent, the axis covered with a thick cretaceo-gelatinous celluliferous crust: Polypes scattered over the whole surface.

14. GORGONIA. Polype-mass arborescent with a horny continuous flexible axis: "cells for the polypi sessile."

Family III. ALCYONIDÆ.

Polype-mass fixed, coriaceous or somewhat carnous, without any distinct axis but strengthened by variously disposed calcareous or siliceous spicula: polype-cells subcutaneous, scattered over the surface.

15. ALCYONIUM. Polypes scattered over the whole surface: the spicula calcareous.

16. CYDONIUM. Polype-mass tuberous: the spicula siliceous.