

examined, are seen to be divided into eight rays, indicating the number of the tentacula of the polypes, which issue here. The body of the polypes is as it were enclosed in a transparent vesicular membrane, dotted with many minute calcareous grains, and marked with eight white longitudinal lines or septa which, stretching between the membrane and the central stomach, divide the intermediate space into an equal number of compartments. These lines not only extend to the base of the tentacula, but run across the oral disk, and terminate in the central mouth. The tentacula are short, obtuse, ciliated on the margins, and strengthened at their roots by numerous linear straight crystalline spicula. From the base of the white longitudinal lines an equal number of white tortuous glandular filaments depend, hanging loose in an abdominal cavity placed underneath the fleshy cylindrical stomach, and continuous with the aquiferous canals.* The Polype-cells are oval, placed just under the skin, and are the terminations of the long aquiferous canals which run through the whole polypidom. These canals divide in their course into branches that diverge towards the circumference where they dilate into the cells; they have strong cartilaginous, perhaps muscular, coats; and are filled with a much less consistent matter than that of the body of the polype itself. It appears, from this disposition of the tubes, that many polypes communicate together and form a compound animal, but that all the polypes of the same polypidom do not communicate directly by their medium. The space between the tubes is occupied by a loose fibrous net-work, and the threads being a little more crowded at particular places, they form lozenge-shaped compartments within which are smaller meshes; and the interstices of the whole are filled with a transparent gelatine, in which numerous crystalline irregular spicula lie immersed. These spicula are mostly in the form of a cross and toothed on the sides, but they have no organic connection either with the reticular fibres or with the tubes: they are calcareous, for if a portion of the zoophyte is immersed in a mineral acid, a strong effervescence immediately takes place, and spicula are no longer discernible.

* A classical friend on seeing the specimen from which our figure was taken in full expansion, when it is translucent and permits a view of the interanea, was reminded of the following lines:

“ In liquidis translucet aquis; ut eburnea si quis
 “ Signa tegat claro, vel candida lilia, vitro.”
 “ —————salientia viscera possis
 “ Et perlucentes numerare in pectore fibras.”

Ovid. Met. vi. 354 and 390.