

elegantly fringed and radiated flowers, such as the Carnation, Marygold, and Anemone." The language of Le Sueur in respect of the tropical coral-bearing tribes is still warmer. The little polypes of *Porites astroïdes*, when in blow, remind him of a field enamelled with small flowers; and of them in general he says,—“ Quand la mer est calme, c'est un spectacle admirable que de voir les belles couleurs veloutées qu'ils étalent: elles imitent les tapis les plus riches et les plus variés. Près d'eux se montrent des *gorgones* et des *serpules* dont les houpes blanches, jaunes et rouges, brillent de l'éclat le plus vif, et des *amphitrites* qui élèvent au-dessus de l'eau leur tête couronnée de palmes enrichies des teintes les plus variées. Je ne pouvois me lasser d'admirer avec quelle profusion ces animaux sont groupés et enlacés: c'étoit à regret qu'après m'être promené long-temps au milieu d'eux je me déterminois à les arracher du sein des eaux, et à en mettre des fragments dans un baquet, que je faisois de suite transporter chez moi pour examiner a loisir les animaux particuliers à chacun des polypiers.” *—It is only, however, when they lie with their upper disk expanded and their tentacula displayed, that they solicit comparison with the boasts of Flora, for when contracted the polypes of the madre-pores conceal themselves in their calcareous cups, and the *Actiniæ* hide their beauty, assuming the shape of an obtuse cone or hemisphere of a fleshy consistence, or elongating themselves into a sort of flabby cylinder that indicates a state of relaxation and indolent repose.

The *Actinia gemmacea* is the only species which the anatomist has yet examined with care, † but it may safely be chosen as the representative of its order, the probability being that the deviations from its structure in the other species and genera are only of secondary consequence. Of the species mentioned Mr Teale has given a very elaborate anatomy, ‡ more correct and minute than any hitherto published, but the sketch to suit our design, must be of a more general character.

* *Memoires du Muséum*, Tom. vi. p. 272 and 287.

† M. Delle Chiaje has, it seems, anatomized several other species, but I have no access to his works. *Bull. des. Sc. Nat.* xvii. 470.

‡ “On the Anatomy of *Actinia coriacea*, by Thomas Pridgin Teale,” in *Transactions of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society*, Vol. i.