

ed in any direction and greatly lengthened, they are capable of being applied to every point, and adhere by suction with considerable tenacity. * The food is retained in the stomach for ten or twelve hours, when the undigested remains are regurgitated, enveloped in a glairy fluid, not unlike the white of an egg. The size of the prey is frequently in unseemly disproportion to the preyer, † being often equal in bulk to itself. I had once brought me a specimen of *Act. gemmacea*, that might have been originally two inches in diameter, and that had somehow contrived to swallow a valve of *Pecten maximus* of the size of an ordinary saucer. The shell, fixed within the stomach, was so placed as to divide it completely into two halves, so that the body, stretched tensely over, had become thin and flattened like a pancake. All communication between the inferior portion of the stomach and the mouth was of course prevented, yet instead of emaciating and dying of a hydropsy, the animal had availed itself of what undoubtedly had been a very untoward accident, to increase its enjoyments and its chances of double fare. A new mouth, furnished with two rows of numerous tentacula, was opened up on what had been the base, and led to the under stomach:—the individual had indeed become a sort of Siamese twin, but with greater intimacy and extent in its unions!

The existence of nerves in the structure of the Actiniæ is still doubtful. Spix tells us, that he detected near the base and centre of the body some small nodules or ganglions placed in pairs, from which filaments emanate towards the circumference, constituting, as he believes, their nervous system. Blainville asserts, however, that in numerous dissections made with every possible care, he could see nothing like what Spix has described and figured; and the only part that he can regard as nervous, is a sort of grey pulpy cord in the margin of the labial rim. Delle Chiaje, and Mr Teale agree with Blainville. ‡ Be the fact as it may, we know that every part of the

* According to Gærtner the animal fixes the tentacula by throwing out of their whole surface “a number of extremely minute suckers, which, sticking fast to the small protuberances of the skin, produce the sensation of a roughness, which is so far from being painful, that it even cannot be called disagreeable.” *Phil. Trans.* v. 52. p. 76.—No such structure can be discovered.

† “Fauces hæc animalia, subtus sacci instar penitus clausa, superne habent pro libitu tam patulas, ut mytilos satis magnos aliasve conchas ingurgitent, e quibus, modo nos fugiente, pisces extrahere, et evacuatæ testas per eandem aperturam, ejicere rursus valent. Quæ testæ, si majores sint, et ægre per fauces transituræ essent, Priapus non solum fauces late expandit, sed easdem, ut solemus tibialia, quasi invertit, quo spatium brevius et apertura fit latior.” *Basteri Opusc. Subsec. i. lib. iii. 122.*

‡ But Dr Grant says—“The nervous system has been long known in the