

That the Actiniæ are viviparous is very commonly alleged, and almost every naturalist who has paid attention to their habits may be quoted as a witness of the escape of the young from the stomach through the oral aperture.* Some have maintained that these young may have been swallowed accidentally by the supposititious mother, and being found unfit for digestion are consequently rejected, quoting in favour of this not very feasible conjecture, an experiment of Dicquemare, who, offering several small individuals to a larger one of a different species, found that it swallowed them readily, "but threw them up again alive within eight, ten, or twelve hours, or even later." Dicquemare himself, although he expresses himself in dubious terms, evidently believed them to be viviparous, having seen several bring forth even in his hand, eight, ten, or twelve young ones like to their parents in all but size, and which immediately affixed themselves, and began to stretch their tentacula as if in quest of prey. Ellis was of the same belief; † and Sir J. G. Dalyell, the best authority on the subject, also says that they are viviparous. "The embryos, one or more, appear first in the tentacula, from whence they can be withdrawn and transmitted to others by the parent, and are at last produced by the mouth. In the course of six years, a specimen preserved by the author, produced above 276 young; some pale, and like mere specks, with only eight tentacula, others florid, and with twenty. They are frequently disgorged along with the half-digested food, thirty-eight appear-

bodies are considerably extended, and their limbs divergent they surely prognosticate fixed fair weather and a calm sea. There are times when some of the anemonies are open and others shut; the number must then be consulted, the question is decided by the majority. The anemonies used as barometers should not be fed, for then the quantity of nourishment might influence their predictions. Anemonies of this and of the first species live and do well for several years without taking any other food but what they find disseminated in the sea water; but should a respite of some days be granted them, they might then be fed with some pieces of muscles of soft fish, and thus restored to their original vigour. Whenever the vessel is sullied by the sediments of salts, slime, the first shoots of sea plants, &c. it may on changing the water be cleansed by wiping it with a soft hair pencil, or even with the finger, carefully avoiding to rub or press hard on the anemonies. Should any of them drop off during this operation, they may be left at liberty, for they will soon of their own accord fix themselves to some other place. Should any of them die, which will soon be discovered by the milky colour of the water, and an offensive smell on changing it, it must be taken out, and on the first opportunity another of the same species be put in its place; those of a moderate size are the most eligible." Dicquemare in *Phil. Trans.* abridg. xiii. 642-3.

* "Leur génération ordinaire est vivipare. Les petites actinies passent de l'ovaire dans l'estomac et sortent par la bouche." Cuvier, *Reg. Anim.* iii. 291.

† *Phil. Trans.* lvii. 429.