

a slight curve outwards towards its extremity, which gives to the whole a very elegant appearance. It is remarkable that in some specimens the arms are much shorter on one side of the body than on the other." *Farre*.

"The stomach is not furnished with a gizzard in this species. The intestine forms a considerable elbow at its origin, and is short and wide, terminating not as in other cases near the tentacular ring, but about midway up the body, at a point opposite the base of the setæ.

"A very singular organ was frequently observed, consisting of a little flask-shaped body situated between the base of two of the arms, and attached to the tentacular ring by a short peduncle. The cavity in its interior is lined with cilia which vibrate downwards towards the outer, and upwards towards the inner side; it has a narrow neck and a wide mouth, around which a row of delicate cilia are constantly playing. No flow of fluids could ever be detected through it, nor did the use of carmine assist in showing with what parts the cavity in its interior might communicate. From the circumstance that it is more frequently absent than present, it cannot be an organ of vital importance to the animal: and it is too intimately blended with the sides of the tentacula, and too constant in its position to be regarded as a parasite. Does it indicate a difference of sex?" *Farre*.

This production was first described by Johnson, the editor of *Gerarde's Herbal*. His description, which is characteristic enough, is as follows: "This is a very succulent and fungous plant, of the thickness of one's thumb; it is of a dark yellowish colour, and buncheth forth on every side with many unequal tuberosities or knots: whereupon Mr Thomas Hicke being in our company did fitly name it Sea ragged Staffe."—It was afterwards observed on the southern coasts of England by Dale and Doody; and Ray introduced it into his *synopsis of British Plants* as a fucus. Ellis at first suspected it to be the spawn of some shell-fish, but (whether relying on the authority of Pallas, who had seen the polypes, or upon subsequent original observations, is uncertain,) he ultimately came to a correct conclusion, for in his *history of Zoophytes* he says, "This is found at particular seasons full of minute papillæ which send forth polypes." The fact was overlooked; and on the authority of Ray and Hudson, botanists continued to rank it in the vegetable kingdom, where it remained until very recently. Even Lamouroux considered it at first as a sea-weed, but he had the fortune afterwards to detect the polypes which he describes as having a cylindrical body and 12 tentacula; and the description which Dr Fleming has given is essentially the same. If no error has crept into their calculation, the species must