

in solution: their developement chiefly in autumn. Habitat ad Angliam, *Linnaeus*. About Chelsea, *Dr Shaw*. Not uncommon in Hyde-park, and Green-park, in the centre of London, *J. E. Gray*. Near Leeds, *Mr Teale*. Near Howick, Northumberland, *Mr R. Embleton*. On leaves in ponds in Scotland, *Sir J. G. Dalyell*.

Polypidom, when at maturity, in large amorphous compact masses, soft, compressible, and somewhat elastic, of a blackish green colour, irregularly lobulated or sinuous on the surface, which has a lubricous appearance, and is more or less apparently porous. The mass is composed of subcylindrical tubes rising from the base to the surface, nearly parallel, connected by, or permeating, a transparent firm jelly-like substance, with which the tubes appear to be also partially filled. The tubes are simple or unbranched, and open outwardly by a roundish or pentagonal aperture, which is closed by a thin membranous cover. The walls of the tubes are of the same thin membranous character, pellucid, colourless, or tinted with green, and without any visible vessels; they contain innumerable lenticular ova of a dark brown colour, about half a line in their longest diameter, very hard and incompressible, but in drying the centre becomes depressed and more transparent than the edges. These singular ova are quite smooth,* and arranged in rows in the tubes, though not very regularly: they are more abundant near the surface than at the base of the polypidom, and exist in such amazing numbers as to excite surprise at the seeming productiveness of an animal which appears to be very partially diffused, and is very capricious in its appearance even in ponds favourable for its growth,—swarming in one season, of rare occurrence in the next, and perhaps then for years lying dormant until some undiscovered cause hatches the egg and renews its pristine fertility. When freed from the mass, the greater number of the ova swim on the surface of the water, but some sink to the bottom.

To this description, derived from specimens in a recent, but not living condition, sent me by Mr Embleton, I add the following particulars derived from Mr Teale's valuable paper. A good idea of the polypes will be obtained by reference to figures 5, 6, of Plate xlv, which are reduced copies of Raspail's. It is organically connected with the mass, the tube forming its tunic, from which the animated body issues by a process of evolution similar to that which develops the horn of a snail. When developed, the head projects a short way,

* M. Meyen says, on the contrary, that the envelope of the ovum is covered with very fine vibratile cilia. Bull. des Sciences Nat. xviii, 313. Has not Meyen mistaken the ova or seeds of the Spongilla for those of the Alcyonella? for undoubtedly the ova of the latter are smooth.