

other. In the former instance, the tentacula were spread out, and numerous currents of water, evidently produced by the vibrations of the cilia, were seen rushing towards the centre. By these eddies the invisible beings which constitute the food of the polypi were brought within the vortex; the tentacula then closed, seized the prey, and conveyed it to the sac or stomach.

11. THE FOOD OF ZOOPHYTES.—However improbable it may appear to the mind unaccustomed to investigate the works of the Creator, that beings so minute as those under examination should prey upon living forms of yet more infinitesimal proportions, the fact is nevertheless unquestionable. It is even possible to select the food of animalcules much smaller than the polypi of the flustra, and thus exhibit their internal structure! The animals called *monads*, may be considered as the lowest limit of animated nature, so far as is cognizable by man, their diameters varying from the twelve hundredth part of an inch to the *twenty-four thousandth*; and the powers of the microscope at present extend no farther. These creatures are of a cylindrical or spherical form, having a mouth by which their nutriment is taken in, and a stomach or digestive apparatus: the latter is visible only when these living atoms are fed with colouring particles, the animals being transparent and colourless, and their natural food equally so. Dr. Ehrenberg, of Berlin, by furnishing these infusoria with colouring matter for