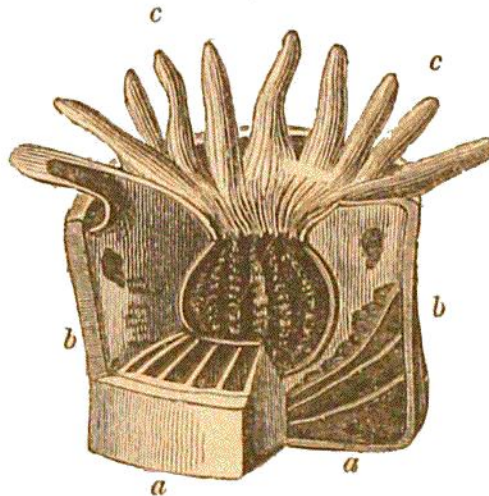


face, which is contracted into a marsupial or purse-like form. The actiniae are affixed to the rocks by a broad base, but they can detach themselves, and change their position; on the Sussex coast hundreds may be seen, at low water, in the hollows of the chalk which are left bare by the reflux of the tide. They are carnivorous and very voracious, feeding on the small fish, crustacea, and mollusca, that come within their reach. I have kept them for months in sea-water, supplying them daily with meat, which they greedily seized, drew into



TAB. 103.—ILLUSTRATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE ACTINIA.*

a, a, The base by which the actinia attaches itself. *b, b*, Openings of cells which communicate with each other and with the tentacula. *c, c*, The tentacula. The surface of the stomach is seen in the centre, arranged in vertical plaits or folds.

the sac, or stomach, and afterwards ejected perfectly colourless, having absorbed the juices, and left the

* By Dr. Robert B. Todd Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology, p. 614.