

and see them by themselves, a very flat field is required. With such an objective the field acts like a section upon the walls and contents of the vesicle, and the granular coating can be brought into strict profile (*Figs. 2 and 7 f*) and displayed as a single layer upon the outside of the wall of the cell, whilst the interior surface of the same wall is proved to be lined by the spirally coiled lasso-thread (*Fig. 2 b c d*). The surface of attachment must be very small, or else the granular covering prevails as much on that side as elsewhere: at any rate, we always find the whole cell, when loosened, covered by these granules.

The first feature that strikes the eye when investigating the interior of these lasso-cells is the total absence of the axial, rod-like body, so commonly observed in all other lasso-cells (see Pl. XIX. *Fig. 5 b b'*): the whole middle portion appears totally void, and such is the true state of things, for the coil always presses closely against the inner surface of the wall, as long as it is in a quiescent state. The wall has one uniform thickness throughout, excepting at one point, corresponding to one of the ends of the coiled thread, and there it thickens and forms a broad, conical basis, with which the lasso is continuous, the one gradually passing into the other (*Fig. 2 c*). Although the thread arises from the wall very obliquely, it is not attached by one side, but at the extreme tip, and suddenly bends upon itself to follow its spiral course. When partially uncoiled (*Fig. 8*), this sharp bend (*c*) may be more plainly seen; but when it is straightened out (*Figs. 3, 4, 5, 10 c*) the bend disappears, and the thread meets the wall at right angles. In this state the broadened base is a marked feature. Returning to the uncoiled lasso again (*Fig. 2*), we will observe that the coils (*b*) are set very far apart, but at equal distances, and do not make more than seven or eight turns before the thread terminates very abruptly, at a point (*d*) directly opposite to the basis of attachment (*c*); but the end is perfectly free from the wall against which it presses. Another noticeable feature in the thread is, that it is as easily seen at one part as at any other; and this is owing to the fact, that it has one uniform thickness from the base to the tip. This, when compared to the gracefully tapering lassos of *Discophoræ* (Pl. XV. and XIX. *Fig. 5^a*), appears very clumsy, and looks as if it might be rather inefficient; yet nowhere do we find lassos so tenacious of their hold as among the *Ctenophoræ*: and this is all the more remarkable because, in addition to the shortness of the thread, which is only eight or nine times longer than the diameter of the cell, it is perfectly smooth, and also blunt at the tip.

With this amount of knowledge of the lasso-cell, one might very naturally suppose that the lasso makes its exit from the cell as all other lassos among *Discophoræ*

up within the cell, and knew nothing of the peculiar mode of connection between the thread and

the vesicle: and both mistook the granular bodies to be *within* the cells, instead of *without*.