

it is easily ascertained to be out of place, owing to some accidental pressure. The variations which they undergo in their various degrees of contraction and expansion having already been described when speaking of the movements of these animals, I need not refer to the subject again. I have only to add, that they appear frequently coiled up like a corkscrew, in a regular and more or less elongated spiral. But, strange to say, in this position, though placed upon the two sides of the body in a symmetrical position, the spiral is not antitropic, but coiled in the same direction on both sides of the body, though their bases and hooks, and, indeed, the whole upper part of their structure, shows a regular antitropic arrangement, like all symmetrical parts throughout the animal kingdom. Here, however, I have constantly found the spirals of the thread, when coiled up, curved in the same direction, both of them turning to the left in an ascending direction or to the right in the opposite direction. This is the more surprising, as in animals in which there are parts twisted upon the two sides of the body, those of the right side are curled in one direction, and those of the left side in the opposite direction, in order to establish perfect symmetry. Thus, the horns of cattle, sheep, and goats are twisted, the right to the left, and the left to the right; while in antelopes the direction is reversed, the right horn being twisted to the right and the left horn to the left. The same antitropy is also observed in the bend of the tusks in elephants and wild boars, or of the horns in deer, etc. Such an antagonism seems, therefore, not yet to prevail among Radiata, in which the anterior and posterior extremities have not become prominent.

The lateral fringes have the same structure as the main thread, consisting, in the middle, of a bundle of elongated cells surrounded by epithelial cells. When contracted, the longitudinal cells, extending into the main thread, appear like transverse fibres. There are, however, no transverse fibres proper in the main thread, any more than in the lateral fringes; as in every instance those transverse fibres of the main thread can be traced into the centre of the lateral ones. The extension of the threads must therefore be of a more passive character, owing to the relaxation of the fibres, and cannot be produced by the contraction of annular fibres; though the longitudinal cells of the lateral fringes may perhaps contribute by their contraction to the elongation of the main thread. This disposition explains very fully the slow elongation of the tentacles, in comparison with their quick and almost instantaneous contractions, and also the peculiar phenomenon attending this elongation, when, by starts, the main thread seems rather to be dropping from point to point to its fullest elongation in a passive way by the relaxation of the fibres. I am, however, at a loss to explain by their structure the elongation of the lateral threads at right angles with the main