

allowing of its progress being traced into the granules which are dispersed throughout the substance of the body. Trembley is of opinion that these granules are vesicular, and that they assume the colour they are observed to have, from their becoming filled with the coloured particles contained in the nourishment. The granules which are nearest to the cavity of the stomach are those which are first tinged, and which therefore first imbibe the nutritious juices: the others are coloured successively, in an order determined by their distance from the surface of the stomach. Trembley ascertained that a living hydra introduced into the stomach of another hydra, was not in any degree acted upon by the fluid secretions of that organ, but came out uninjured. It often happens that a hydra, in its eagerness to transfer its victim into its stomach, swallows several of its own tentacula, which had encircled it; but these tentacula always ultimately come out of the stomach, sometimes after having remained there twenty-four hours, without the least detriment.

The researches of Trembley have brought to light the extraordinary fact that not only the internal surface of the stomach of the polypus is endowed with the power of digesting food, but that the same property belongs also to the external surface, or what we might call the skin of the animal. He found that by a dexterous manipulation, the hydra may be completely turned inside out, like the finger of a glove, and that the animal, after having undergone this singular operation, will very soon resume all its ordinary functions, just as if nothing had happened. It accommodates itself in the course of a day or two to the transformation, and resumes all its natural habits, eagerly seizing animalcules with its tentacula, and introducing them into its newly formed stomach, which has for its interior surface what before was the exterior skin, and which digests them with perfect ease. When the discovery of this curious phenomenon was first made known to the world, it excited great astonishment, and many naturalists were incredulous