The *Hydatid*, (Fig. 248,) is another parasitic worm, of the simplest possible construction. It has a head (o,) of which H is a magnified representation, furnished with four suckers, and a tubular neck, which terminates in a globular sac. When this sac, which is the stomach, is fully distended with fluid, its sides are stretched, so as to be reduced to a very thin transparent membrane, having a perfectly spherical shape: after this globe has become swollen to a very large size, the neck yields to the distention, and disappears; and the head can then be distinguished only as a small point on the surface of the globular sac. It is impossible to conceive a more simple organic structure than this, which may, in fact, be considered as an isolated living stomach. The *Cœnurus*, which is found in the brain of sheep, has a structure a little more complicated; for, instead of a single head, there are a great number spread over the surface, opening into the same general cavity; and when the sac is distended, appearing only as opaque spots on its surface.

The structure of the *Sponge* has been already fully described; and the course of the minute channels pointed out, in which a kind of circulation of sea water is carried on for the nourishment of the animal. The mode by which nutriment is extracted from this circulating fluid, and made to contribute to the growth of these plant-like structures, is entirely unknown.

The apparatus for nutrition possessed by animals belonging to the tribe of *Medusæ* is of a peculiar kind. I have already described the more ordinary form of these singular animals, which resembles a mushroom, from the hemispherical form of their bodies, and their central foot-stalk, or pedicle. In the greater number of species there exists at the extremity of this pedicle, a single aperture, which is the beginning of a tube leading into a large central cavity in the interior of the body, and which may, therefore, be regarded as the mouth of the animal; but in those species which have no pedicle, as the *Equoreæ*, the mouth is situated at the centre of the under surface. The aperture is of sufficient