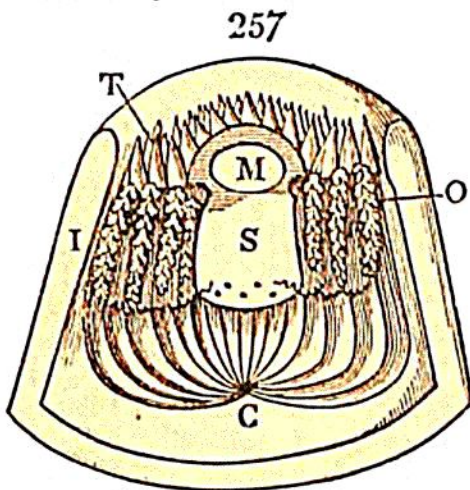


particles brought within reach of the mouth by means of currents excited by the motions of the cilia:

Such are the simple forms assumed by the organs of assimilation among the lowest orders of the animal creation; namely, digesting cavities, whence proceed various canals, which form a system for the transmission of the prepared nourishment to different parts; but all these cavities and canals being simply hollowed out of the solid substance of the body. As we ascend a step higher in the scale, we find that the stomach and intestinal tube, together with their appendages, are distinct organs, formed by membranes and coats proper to each, and that they are themselves contained in an outer cavity, which surrounds them, and which receives and collects the nutritious juices after their elaboration in these organs. The *Actinia*, or *Sea Anemone*, for example, resembles a polypus in its general form, having a mouth, which is surrounded with tentacula, and which leads into a capacious stomach, or sac, open below, and occupying



the greater part of the bulk of the animal; but while, in the polypus, the sides of the stomach constitute also those of the body, the whole being one simple sac; in the actinia, spaces intervene between the coats of the stomach, and the skin of the animal. As the stomach is not a closed sac, but is open below, these cavities are, in fact, continuous with that of the stomach: they are divided by numerous membranous partitions passing vertically between the skin, and the membrane of the stomach, and giving support to that organ. Fig. 257, representing a vertical section of the *Actinia coriacea*, displays this internal structure. B is the base, or disk, by which the animal adheres to rocks: I is the section of the coriaceous integument, showing its thickness: M is the central aperture of the upper surface, which performs the office