

infusory, and other animalcules contained in that element. It is to be observed that these inhabit a common house, from which they cannot separate themselves; their sole character is that of being attached to an animated mass, so that each individual partakes of the life common to the whole, and also of a separate life, independent of that of the others. Yet the nutriment that one of these individuals takes, extends its influence to parts the most distant from the place it occupies.

of horny teeth wherewith the food is crushed and comminuted. These animals are exceedingly minute, and in many cases, when examined by the naked eye, the groups in which they are congregated have the appearance of a delicate mossy substance spread out upon the surface of various seaweeds and other submarine bodies, from which circumstance Ehrenberg derived the name of the class (Bryozoa, *Βρύον*, sea-moss; *Ζῷον*, an animal), other forms, such as the *Flustræ* and *Escharæ*, are much more conspicuous objects, their abodes forming broad expansions of a coriaceous, horny, or stony texture, composed of innumerable minute cells disposed side by side, wherein the little animals are lodged.

The tubes or cells inhabited by some of these delicate creatures (Bowerbankia) are wonderfully beautiful, and present a mechanism contrived for the protection of the little inmates as extraordinary as it is elegant in design. Inferiorly each cell presents the appearance of a simple tube of a hard and corneous texture, but perfectly transparent, but the upper extremity, for about a third of its length, is flexible, and so constructed as to form a very complete operculum, by which the entrance is guarded. The flexible part consists of two portions, the lower half being a simple continuation of the edge of the tube, while the upper is composed of a circle of delicate thread-like, horny filaments, arranged parallel to each other around the mouth of the cell, and which are prevented from separating beyond a certain distance, by means of a membrane of excessive tenuity that connects them. By this arrangement no obstacle whatever is presented to the protrusion of the ciliated tentacula of the little Bryozoa, but when it retires into its abode the horny circlet of filaments, and the soft termination of the cell are gradually folded inwards so as completely to close the orifice, and thus form a secure protection against intrusion from without.—T. R. J.