

Having made these general remarks, I shall next give a history of some of the best known and most interesting species.

1. The common polypes of stagnant waters, belonging to the *first* Order, have met with an admirable historian in M. Trembley, and what I have to communicate with

Fig. 8.

respect to them will be chiefly derived from him. With regard to their *reproduction*, it is by germs and cuttings. The former issue gradually from the body of the parent polype, as the trunk of a tree sends forth a branch. The



bud that forms the commencement of a young one *Hydra viridis* is a continuation of her skin, and its stomach of her stomach. When she takes her food, the bodies of her young are seen also to inflate themselves, as if they had taken it with their own mouths, and the food may be seen passing from one to the other. After they have grown thus as branches for some time, and even have pushed forth germs themselves, they detach themselves from the parent stem, and become separate animals.

It is stated that, by this mode of generation, in the space of a month a single polype may be the parent of a million of descendants. Trembley observed some long branches of trees that had fallen into the water, which he describes as being as full of polypes as a peruke of hairs; and that, though their innumerable arms were at work, there was no confusion amongst them.

But these animals, as is well known, do not multiply solely by germs, but also by cuttings, as they may be called; their substance is so instinct with life, that nothing appears able to destroy it—a circumstance, perhaps, arising from the nervous molecules of which it seems almost to consist. If divided transversely, each segment will become a distinct animal, send forth tentacles round its upper