

unknown. Rumphius, however, has described that of the *fungus Madrepore*; and recently an Italian, Vincent Rosa, whose description I shall copy, another species.

“From every cell,” says he, “issues a cylindrical animal, resembling an intestine, transversely wrinkled, about half an inch long and two lines in diameter, and of which the upper extremity or mouth is surrounded by about twenty-two very short tentacles. These animals, which are pendent, because this madrepore is always fixed under the projections of the rocks, and vibrates at the will of the waves, are always of a lively orange colour, they contract as soon as they are touched, and they die upon being taken out of the water.” Whoever examines a fragment of the polypary of any of the varieties of white coral, will find it to consist of innumerable radiating tubes, variously intercepted, all of which appear to issue from a common base; these are the receptacles of the general body of the polype, while the connected individuals with their blossoms inhabit an infinity of cells opening externally, from which the tentacles issue to collect their food.

The seemingly insignificant creatures here described, and which seem as little animalized as any animal can be to retain a right to the name, all whose means of action are confined to their tentacles, and whose sole employment appears to be the collection and absorption of the beings that form their food, are employed by their Creator, to construct and rear mighty fabrics in the bosom of the deep. He has so organized them, that from their food and the waters of the ocean, which by a constant expansion and contraction they absorb and expel, they are enabled to separate, or elaborate, calcareous particles with which they build up, and are continually enlarging, their structures; forming them into innumerable cells, each inhabited by an individual animal, which however is not insulated and