

of their mouth, which, when once they are fixed, never let go their hold till the animal is brought within the action of their powerful jaws. Lamarck thinks they do not masticate but only lacerate their food; but as two faces of each of their pyramidal organs answer those of the two adjoining ones, and these faces are finely and transversely furrowed,\* this looks like masticating surfaces. Bosc, who appears to have seen them take their food, says it consists principally of young shell-fish and small crustaceous animals; as the latter are very alert in their motions, it is difficult for the sea-urchins to lay hold of them: but when once one of these animals suffers itself to be touched by one or two of the tentacles of its enemy, it is soon seized by a great number of others, and immediately carried towards the mouth, the apparatus of which developing itself, soon reduces it to a pulp.

Who can say that the All-wise Creator did not foresee all the situations into which this animal would be thrown, so as to provide it with every thing that its station and functions require? Considering its internal organization and the nature of the animal itself, and that it holds a middle station between the polype and the Molluscans, in the former of which the développement of muscle is very obscure, and in the latter very conspicuous, and that it cannot, like the former, fix itself by its base, and so support a polypary, or if endued with locomotive powers carry with it a heavy shell; these things considered, and the nature of its food, and the force necessary to prepare it for digestion, it was evidently requisite that it should be defended by a crust sufficient to afford a support, and give effect to its powerful oral apparatus, and yet light enough to yield to the efforts of its motive powers; but as this crust, from its composition and nature, was liable to be crushed by a very

\* Fig. 22.