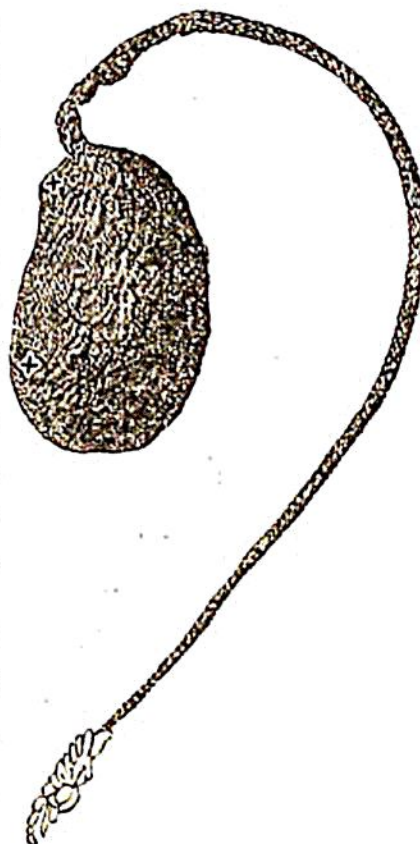


contract and restore themselves individually, and have also a very slight general movement which causes the water to enter their common cavity, visit their gills for respiration, and convey to them the substances which constitute their food. M. Le Sueur observed that when the central cavity of the common tube was filled with water, it was immediately spirted forth in little jets from all the extremities of the tubercles with which the surface was covered, from whence it appears that the external aperture of the individual animal is really the anal aperture, and the opposite or internal one the mouth, which thus received the water and the food it conveyed from the common tube, and rejected it by the orifice of the tubercles.

The internal organization of the little tenants of the common tube is given with considerable detail by Savigny;\* the general opening at the summit, or truncated end of the tube, has an annular diaphragm, from which it appears that they are arranged in circles round it, so that in this respect they form rays; in shape they somewhat resemble a florence-flask, and have alternately a long and short neck. The cavity below the neck is filled by the gills and various intestines, which it would be difficult to describe intelligibly, in a popular manner. There seems some analogy in these floating hives of luminous animals, both as to size and motion, with the sea-pens.†

No species of the genus appears to have been met with

Fig. 28.



Boltenia.

\* Ubi supr. pl. xxii., xxiii.

† See above, p. 187.