

state, become a barnacle, without head, eyes, or locomotive organs, can never be admitted, till confirmed by repeated experiments of the most able and practised zoologists, so as to place the matter beyond dispute. I by no means, however, mean to assert, that Mr. Thompson did not think he saw what he has stated, in both cases, to take place, but he was probably deceived by appearances, in some such way as he states Slabber to have been.*

A single fact, observed by Poli, is sufficient to overturn this whole hypothesis. This illustrious conchologist relates, that he had an opportunity of examining the immense fecundity of the sessile barnacles. "In the beginning of June he found innumerable aggregations of them, covering certain boats that had been long stationary, which, when closely examined, were so minute, that single shells were not bigger than the point of a needle; and that from that time they grew very rapidly, and arrived at their full size in October." These very minute ones must have been hatched from the egg, and not produced from larvae.

With regard to the functions and instincts of these Cirripedes, very little has been observed. We see from the above account of them, that, like many other animals amongst the lowest grades of the animal kingdom, they are furnished with particular organs adapted to the capture of animalcules and other minor inhabitants of the deep, which they help to keep within due limits. Probably they act upon the substances to which they attach themselves, and promote the decomposition of shells, and other exuvixæ of defunct animals, and also of the rocks and ligneous substances on which they take their station. Of this we are sure, that they work His work who gave them being, and assigned them their several stations in the world of waters.

* Zool. Research. i. 7.