

empty cells after the escape of the ova. In the empty cells from which the ova have escaped, we frequently observe a few remains of the former polypus, lying at the place where the body of the polypus bifurcated, and where the principal connection seems to exist between the polypus and the axis; we likewise perceive numerous monades and other animalcules busily employed in consuming the remains of the dead polypus. The ovum, even before arriving at maturity, exhibits very obvious signs of irritability, frequently contracting different parts of its surface, and shrinking backward in its cell; the cilia on its surface are likewise observed in rapid motion within the cell, as in the ciliated ova of other zoophytes. The mature ova are often found with their small end projecting from the opening of the cells, and their final escape is aided by the incessant vibrations of the cilia covering their surface, by the ova contracting themselves in their lateral direction, by the waves agitating the branches of the flustra, and by the same incomprehensible laws which regulate the formation and growth of the ova, and the whole economy of this zoophyte."—Edin. New. Phil. Journ. iii. 116-7.

*Fig. 7.*



EGG OF *ALCYONIDIUM HIRSUTUM*.