

ries considerably, some extending scarcely a line from their external attachment, others reaching as far as the stomach, being nearly half an inch in breadth. The height generally corresponds with the height of the animal; a few, however, of the narrowest leaflets extending upwards from the base, terminate obliquely in the sides, without being prolonged as high as to the lip or roof.* These lamellæ are of a muscular character, and by their actions cause the body to assume its various forms. The spaces between them are filled, 1st, with the ovaries attached, in elongated masses, to the inner border of most of the leaflets; and 2dly, with the "vermiform filaments" which, as already mentioned, are often extruded at the mouth. These filaments are capillary, greatly convoluted, smooth and of a white colour, with a sort of mesentery extended along one side. Their appearance naturally suggests the idea of their being either the intestines or the oviducts of the creature, but they perform no function of the kind; and probably they are cæcal, analogous to the filaments which hang from the stomach of the asteroid zoophytes. They have been often described as ovarian, even by late authors,† but Mr Teale has fully shewn the improbability, if not the erroneousness of this opinion. He believes the filament to be tubular, though he acknowledges he has not been able to obtain any evidence of the fact, and "under the microscope it appears simply as a round, solid, translucent chord." Such also has it always appeared to me, so that I can scarcely hesitate to pronounce Dicquemare's description of its structure to be altogether incorrect. "I have observed," he says, "that there grows or comes out of their body and mouth a sort of threads about the size of a horse-hair, which being examined with a solar microscope of five inches diameter, appear as if made up

* Teale in Trans. Leeds' Soc. i. 96.

† "Entre ce sac intérieur (the stomach) et la peau extérieure, est une organisation assez compliquée, mais encore obscure, consistant surtout en feuillets verticaux et fibreux, auxquels adhèrent les ovaires, semblables à des fils tres entortillés." Cuvier, Reg. Anim. iii. p. 290. Delle Chiaje in Bull. des Sc. Nat. xvii. 471. See also J. R. Jones in Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol. ii. 409.—Sharpey describes them as oviducts. Cyclop. cit. i. 614. Dicquemare had a singular notion that they contained certain bulbs or buds "which open in time and cleaving to the bodies on which these threads are extended, produce small anemonies." Phil. Trans. abridg. xiii. 639.