

ovary. If a recently dead specimen in which the papillæ are reduced to the state above described, be examined with the lens, a succession of air-bubbles are seen frequently escaping from the horny tubes. By the successive formation and ascent of these bubbles, the ova which at this period are loose and floating in the tubes, are gradually elevated and conveyed to the exterior. In November, many of the specimens were seen with air-bubbles and ova successively escaping, and the external surface was covered by ova thus conveyed to the exterior. Those specimens which were black and putrid, and appeared to have been dead some time, exhibited the horny tubes nearly devoid of ova. After a time the horny basis itself becomes softened, and appears to undergo decomposition. During the following spring, according to the evidence of Vaucher and Raspail, the horny envelope of each ovum separates into two lateral halves adhering on one side as by a hinge. From these valves a small gelatinous tubercle projects, which soon expands into a distinct polype, and gradually becomes elongated into a tubular form. From the sides of this tubular polype, small gelatinous buds soon appear, and these again become developed into distinct polypes; the tubular parietes gradually become consolidated, and form the horny basis of the mature Alcyonella."

*Fig. 48.*

