

there is some reason to conjecture it may be by the means of eggs ; as small opaque bodies of a constant and determinate figure are sometimes seen lying in their bells : and unless they are eggs I know not what to make of them. Their shape is nearly that of a weaver's shuttle, being composed of two circular arcs, whose concave parts are towards each other. The breadth is about two-thirds of the length, and in the middle of each a circular spot appears more opaque than the rest, which possibly may be the embryo. But as I never saw any of them come to perfection, I can make no farther judgment of them than what their situation and form suggests.

“ The bells or colonies of these animals are to be found adhering to the large leaves of duckweed and other aquatic plants ; and may easiest be discovered by letting a quantity of water with duckweed in it stand quietly for three or four hours in glass vessels, in some window or other place where a strong light comes ; for then, if any are about the duckweed, they will be found on careful inspection extending themselves out of their cases, spreading their plumes, and making an elegant appearance.

“ They are extremely tender, and require no little care to preserve them : their most general disorder is a kind of slime or mouldiness, which will sometimes envelope them in such a manner as to prove mortal. The best way of curing this is by gently pouring a large quantity of water (perhaps two or three quarts) into the vessel where they are kept, and letting it run off slowly : by which means the sliminess will gradually be loosened and carried away with the water.

“ As to food, if fresh water be given them daily they will find sufficient for themselves ; and it is dangerous to try any other way of feeding them, for the smallest worms or other visible insects one can think of giving them will tear their delicate frame in pieces.”

Pallas has added nothing to the history of this polype, which he had, nevertheless, personally examined.—Bosc having collected, in ponds near Paris, a polypidom of a massive character, apparently unknown, sent it to Bruguiere, who described it as a new species of *Alcyonium*. The same production having come under Lamarck's inspection, he formed of it the genus *Alcyonella*, which was immediately adopted by all naturalists, for Bruguiere's description of the polypes (the accuracy of which was vouched for by Lamouroux!) differed in so many obvious particulars from Trembley's, that no one could suspect their identity, the more especially as the figures of the polypidoms were equally dissimilar. Bosc's polypidom was therefore catalogued in our systems as an *Alcyonella*, and Trembley's as a spe-