

merely by investigating the fragment of a tooth under a microscope.

222. Another process, subsidiary to digestion, is called *insalivation*. Animals which masticate their food have glands, in the neighborhood of the mouth, which secrete a fluid called *saliva*. This fluid mingles with the food as it is chewed, and prepares it also to be more readily swallowed. The salivary glands are generally wanting, or rudimentary, or otherwise modified, in animals which swallow their food without mastication. After it has been masticated and mingled with saliva, it is moved backwards by the tongue, and passes down through the œsophagus, into the stomach. This act is called *deglutition* or *swallowing*.

223. The wisdom and skill of the Creator is strikingly illustrated in the means he has afforded to every creature for securing the means for subsistence. Some animals have no ability to move from place to place, but are fixed to the soil; as the oyster, the polyp, &c. These are dependent for subsistence upon such food as may stray or float near, and they have the means of securing it when it comes within their reach. The oyster closes its shell, and thus entraps its prey; the polyp has flexible arms, (Fig. 77,) capable of

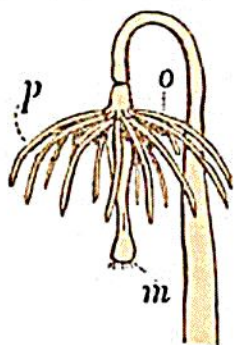


Fig. 77

great extension, which it throws instantly around any minute animal that comes in contact with it. The cuttle-fish, also, has elongated arms about the mouth, furnished with ranges of suckers, by which it secures its prey, (Fig. 47.)

224. Some are provided with instruments for extracting food from places which would be otherwise inaccessible. Some of the mollusks, with their rasp-like tongue, (Fig. 58,) perforate the shells of other animals, and thus reach and extract the inhabitant. Insects have various piercers, suckers, or a protractile tongue for the