known that they frequently fill the whole cavity of their body with water, through the mouth, the tentacles, and pores upon the sides, and empty it at intervals through the same openings. And thus the aquatic mollusks introduce water into special cavities of the body, or between their tissues, through various openings, while others pump it into their blood vessels, through pores at the surface of their body. This is the case with most fishes.

226 *a.* Besides the more conspicuous organs above described, there are among the lower animals various microscopic apparatus for securing their prey. The lassos of polypi have been already mentioned incidentally, (223.) They are minute cells, each containing a thin thread coiled up in its cavity, which may be thrown out by inversion, and extend to a considerable length beyond the sac to which it is attached. Such lassos are grouped in clusters upon the tentacles, or scattered upon the sides of the Actinia and of most polypi. They occur also in similar clusters upon the tentacles and the disk of jelly-fishes. The nettling sensation produced by the contact of many of these animals is undoubtedly owing to the lasso cells. Upon most of the smaller animals, they act as a sudden, deadly poison. In Echinoderms, such as star-fishes, and sea-urchins, we find other microscopic organs in the form of clasps, placed upon a movable stalk. The clasps, which may open and shut alternately, are composed of serrated or hooked branches, generally three in number, closing concentrically upon each other. With these weapons, star-fishes not more than two inches in diameter may seize and retain shrimps of half that length, notwithstanding their efforts to disentangle themselves.