

Infusoria, passes in succession through all the phases we have described. But the remarkable point in these metamorphoses is, that what was at first a single individual is thus transformed, by transverse division, into a number of entirely distinct animals, which is not the case in ordinary metamorphoses. Moreover, the upper segment does not follow the others in their development. Its office seems to be accomplished so soon as the other segments begin to be independent, being intended merely to favor their development, by securing and preparing the substances necessary to their growth. In this respect, it resembles the nurse of the Cercaria.

348. The Hydroid Polyps present phenomena no less numerous and strange. The Campanularia has a branching, plant-like form, with little cup-shaped cells on the ends and in the axils of the branches, each of which contains a little animal. These cups have not all the same organization. Those at the extremity of the branches, (*a*,) and which appear first, are furnished with long tentacles, where-with they seize their food, (Fig. 143.) Those in the axils of the branches, and which appear late, are females, (*b*,) and have no such tentacles. Inside of the latter, little spherical bodies are found, each having several spots in the middle; these are the eggs. Finally, there is a third form, different from the two preceding, produced by budding from the female polyp, to which it in some sort belongs, (*c*,) It is within this that the eggs arrive, after having remained some time within the female. Their office seems to be to complete the incubation, for it is always within them that the eggs are hatched.



Fig. 143.

349. The little animal, on becoming free, has not the