

is afterward worthless; for the tube cannot be returned to the sheath. But those thus expended are not missed, as the polyp has indefinite supplies of such weapons, and also ready means of refurnishing itself.

Figures 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, pp. 14, 15, illustrate different stages in the development of a lasso-cell (figure 10) out of a common spherical cell, as made out by Dr. Mobius in his careful microscopic investigations. The Actinia affording the results was the *Urticina crassicornis*, found in both European and American seas. The actual size of the cell represented in figure 6 is about a 5000th of an inch. In figure 7 the lasso-cell has already taken form but is folded on itself; in 8, there is a second infolding; 9 shows a return to a single fold, and further progress in the forming cell; and 10, the straightened-lasso-cell. Thus the work of replenishing, throughout the body wherever lassos are used, is always going on.



The radiating partitions or septa in the internal cavity of the polyp have along the outer free edge what looks like a slender white cord attached to it by a much convoluted or mesentery-like membrane; and this cord contains vast numbers of lasso-cells radiately arranged. These white cords through the multiplied plaitings of the mesenteric membrane have great length; and they sometimes extend up through the stomach and pass out of the mouth; or they are extended in loops through the walls wherever they may happen to be torn.

There are often also bunches of somewhat similar white cords full of lasso-cells appended to the septa, which are extended from the body through some natural orifices near the base of the Actinia (especially those of the *Sagartia* family). Gosse calls these cords *Acontia*. They extend out usually two or three inches, and sometimes six inches, and thereby widen much the stinging range of an Actinia, both for the purposes of defence and attack.

Gosse, in his "British Sea-Anemones," gives the results of some experiments with regard to the action of these lasso-cells (*cnidæ*), from which a few paragraphs may be here cited.