

*friture,* and I can say, '*Probatum est.*' No squeamishness of stomach prevents our volatile friends, the French, from appreciating its excellence; for the dish called *Rastegna*, which is a great favourite in Provence, is mainly prepared from *Anthea cereus*. I would not dare to say that an Opelet is as good as an Omelet; but *chacun à son goût*—try for yourselves. The dish is readily achieved."

The stomach, although without a proper sphincter muscle at its inner extremity, appears to be closed below during the process of digestion. When digestion is complete, the refuse from the food is pushed out through the mouth, the only external opening to the alimentary cavity, and the digested material passes downward into the interior cavity; and there, mixed with sea-water from without, it is distributed through all the interior cavities of the polyp for its nutrition. The polyp has no circulating fluid but the results of digestion mixed with salt water, no blood-vessels but the vacuities among the tissues, and no passage-way for excrements excepting the mouth and the pores of the body that serve for the escape of water on the contraction of the animal.

Actiniæ have usually no gills or *branchiæ* for the aeration of the blood, the whole surface of the body being ordinarily sufficiently soft and delicate to serve in this function. Some species live half buried in the sand, and, as this in large species would prevent the skin of the sides from aiding in respiration, there are sometimes very much lobed and crimped organs, attached to, or alongside of, the tentacles, which give the animal-flower much greater beauty, and at the same time increase the extent of surface for the purposes of aeration; they are set down as branchial by Prof. Verrill.

In one tribe of polyps closely related to the Actiniæ, the Zoanthids, in which the outer skin is usually somewhat coriaceous, or is filled with grains of sand, there are narrow gills arranged vertically, one on either side of the larger radiating septa, figures of which are given in the author's Zoöphyte Atlas.

As to *senses*, Actiniæ, or the best of them, are not quite as