

may be seen the canals, marked by the dark lines (c, c, c,) which arises from numerous orifices in the extremities and fringed surface of the tentacula, and which, gradually uniting like the roots of a plant, converge towards the centre of the pedicle, and terminate by a common tube, which may be considered as the œsophagus (o,) in one large central cavity, or stomach (s.) situated in the upper part of the cupola. The section of this œsophagus is visible at the centre of Fig. 249, where its cavity has the form of a cross. The stomach has a quadrangular shape, as in the ordinary medusæ; and from each of its four corners there proceed vessels, which are continuous with its cavity, and are distributed by endless ramifications over the substance of the cupola, extending even to the fringed margin, all round its circumference. The mode of their distribution, and their numerous communications by lateral vessels, forming a complete vascular net-work, is seen in Fig. 251, which represents, on a larger scale, a portion of the marginal part of the disk. The two large figures (249 and 252) also show the four lateral cavities (r, r, Fig. 252,) which are contiguous to the stomach, but separated from it by membranous partitions: these cavities have, by some, been supposed to perform an office in the system of the Medusa, corresponding to respiration; an opinion, however, which is founded rather on analogy than on any direct experimental evidence. The entrances into these cavities are seen open at e, in Fig. 249, and at e, e, in the section Fig. 252. A transverse section of one of the arms is given in Fig. 253, showing the form of the absorbent tube in the centre; and a similar section of the extremity of one of the tentacula is seen in Fig. 254, in which, besides the central tube, the cavities of some of the smaller branches (b, b,) which are proceeding to join it, are also visible.

The regular gradation which nature has observed in the complexity of the digestive cavities and other organs, of the various species of this extensive tribe, is exceedingly remarkable: for while some, as the *Eudora*, have, to all appearance, no internal cavity corresponding to a stomach, and