

The *polypes* are placed in this external fleshy crust, which, indeed, is but a continuation of their tunic, and serves as a connecting medium to the whole assemblage. Their position in it is marked by an orifice on the surface distinguished by its being cut into eight rays in a starred fashion, and which open when the superior portion of the body is forced outwards.* This exsertile portion, in a state of expansion, resembles a cylindrical bladder or nipple crowned with a fringe formed by the eight short thick pectinated tentacula which encircle the mouth. (Plate xxvi. Fig. 1.) Under this orifice we perceive the stomach, readily distinguished through the transparent parietes by its opacity, occupying the centre of the cylinder, and itself of a cylindrical figure. The space between it and the outer envelopes is divided into eight equal compartments or cells by as many thin ligamentous septa, which, originating in the labial rim, between the bases of the tentacula, descend through the cylinder, attached on the one side to the inner tunic of the body, and on the other to the stomach, which is by this means suspended and retained in its position. The canals or cells formed by these septa communicate freely with the tubulous tentacula above; and they have a still wider communication with the abdominal cavity underneath the stomach, into which we may observe the septa are also continued for a certain way, adhering still to the tunic, but free on their inner edges, for now instead of septa, they form only the same number of plaits of more or less prominence and width. Attached to them, and indeed forming a part of them, there are an equal number of twisted somewhat glandular filaments, which, originating round a small aperture in the base of the stomach, appear to be suspended in the cavity, gradually losing themselves in its depth. By most authors these have been mistaken for ovaries, † but though this assignation of function to

* See on this part of zoophytology Milne-Edwards Memoires "sur les Alcyons" in Ann. des Sc. Nat. part. Zool. iv. p. 333, &c. an. 1835: and in the 2de edit. of Lam. Anim. s. Vert. ii. p. 465.

† Cuvier, Reg. Anim. iii. p. 309, 310, 319. Lamarck gives us Savigny's opinion in the following passage: "Les huit intestins d'un Polype semblent de deux sortes, car ils ne se ressemblent pas tous par la forme, ni vraisemblablement par les fonctions. Deux d'entre eux descendent distinctement jusque au fond du corps du Polype, et n'arrivent à aucun ovaire. Les six autres, plus