laris, and, like it, is almost entirely composed of siliceous spicula, which are straight and in shape like a pin, but from their brittleness few can be separated from the mass in an entire state, and we seldom observe one with the enlargement that takes the place of the head. I have examined specimens in oysters brought to market, and having placed these in sea water, other fellow parasites of their own class soon gave evidence of their being yet living and active, but I had never the pleasure of seeing the polypes of this production.

"The Cliona in the living state consists of a soft, fleshy, granular and distinctly irritable substance, of a greenish yellow colour, traversed, like many other zoophytes, with minute and regularly formed spicula. Its form depends on that of the cavities which it fills; it insinuates itself into their minutest ramifications, and adheres so closely to their smooth parietes, that it cannot be separated without tearing. The parts of the Cliona which project through the holes on the surface of the shell are tubular; and on removing the outer layers of the shell, we can perceive several empty canals winding and ramifying from these tubular papillæ, through the body of the zoophyte. During the months of March and April, when these observations were made, numerous small yellow ova were seen in the vicinity of the canals, agreeing much in their form, colour, size, and mode of distribution with those of the Spongia papillaris and Spongia panicea, which were then nearly in the same stage of advancement. The projecting tubular papillæ possess a complicated structure, and a high degree of contractile power, and exhibit a singular series of appearances, when the zoophyte is attentively examined while at rest in pure sea water. When under water, the papillæ are seen projecting from the apertures of the shell, sometimes to the length of a line and a half; they present a wide circular opening in their centre, and a rapid current of water issues constantly from them, conveying occasional flocculi of a grey membranaceous matter. But on being touched with a needle, or withdrawn from the water, the opening gradually closes, the current ceases, and the whole papilla continuing slowly to contract, is withdrawn completely within the aperture of the shell. The papillæ, viewed in their contracted state, present a smooth, rounded, shut extremity; but when they begin to advance beyond the surface of the shell, their extremity becomes flat and slightly dilated, assumes a villous appearance, with open fissures, radiating from the centre to the margin of the papillæ, and at length a minute circular opening is perceived in the centre of the villous surface. The papilla advances from the shell, and its central opening enlarges in proportion to the healthy state of the zoophyte, and the purity and stillness of the wa-

http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1838-Johnston-BritishZoophytes/README.htm