

in diameter, formed as a horse-shoe, and bordered by a hundred tentacula. Towards one side the mouth, of singular mechanism, seems to have projecting lips and to open as a valve, which folds up within, conveying the particles which are absorbed to the wide orifice of an intestinal organ which descends, perhaps in a convolution, below, and returns again to terminate in an excretory canal under the site of the tentacula. Probably the whole race of *Cristatellæ* is distinguished by a similar conformation."

"The polypus is a very vivacious animal, quickly retreating for security when alarmed, and rising to expand in activity. Though each be endowed with independent life, sensation, and all the motions that can be exercised without actual transition, the whole are subjected to the volition of the sluggish mass in respect to progression:—they are borne along with it."—"A specimen having been cut transversely asunder, each portion seemed to recede by common consent; but both survived, as if sustaining no injury. Neither is any polypus affected by the violence offered in its vicinity.

"Twenty, thirty, or more lenticular substances, of considerable size and in the most irregular arrangement, imbedded in the flesh, are exposed through the translucent green of the animal. Its death and decomposition towards the end of autumn liberate them to float in the water. Subjected to the microscope, or, indeed to the naked eye, their convex surfaces prove brown, the circumference yellow, and begirt with a row of spines terminating in double hooks. Each is an ovum of the *Cristatella* with a hard shell, and occupied by yellowish fluid contents."—"In 5 or 6 months the ovum gapes at one side to allow the protrusion of an originating polypus, which by a remarkable provision of nature now floats reversed, with the head downwards, to ensure absorption of the liquid element below. On quitting the ovum it attaches itself to some solid substance by the base, then disproportionately large, from which a second polypus quickly rises, then a third, and a fourth; and thus with others. In earlier stages the *Cristatella mirabilis* seems to be of a circular figure, and in its most mature state there is a margin projecting beyond the root of the polypi." *Dalyell*.

To illustrate this description of Sir J. G. Dalyell, the only naturalist who has observed the species in Britain, I have given copies of the beautiful figures of M. Turpin in Plate xliii, for there can surely be scarce a question of the identity of the continental and British zoophyte. Turpin's figures, it is to be noticed, were drawn from young or slightly developed specimens; a mature polypidom with its 300 individuals must indeed present