

From what has been advanced, we perceive that the flustra is a compound animal, composed of an immense number of individuals united in one body, and consisting of a fleshy substance, secreting a calcareous skeleton, and studded over with cells containing polypi, which may be considered as foci of vitality, by whose agency the life of the whole mass is maintained. Whether these separate centres of life are susceptible of pain and pleasure independently of the whole, it may not be possible to determine; we have a living proof in the Siamese twins,* that even in our own species there may be an united organization with distinct nervous systems, and individual sensations; and as it is certain that each polype enjoys distinct volition, it is most probable that the sensations of each individual are independent of the general mass. However this may be, we are at least certain that the Eternal has bestowed on these, as on all his creatures, the capacity and means of enjoyment. In truth, when observing the active movements of the polypi of the flustra, through the microscope of Mr. Lister, the beautiful remark of Paley,† on the happiness enjoyed by the lesser animals, came forcibly to my recollection, and I thought with him, that if any motion of mute creatures could express delight it was exhibited by the beings on which I was gazing: if they had intended to make signs of their happi-

* Philosophical Transactions for 1830, p. 177.

† Natural Theology.