

the human spermatic particles than any others. At one end there is a pear-shaped body (*Fig. 25**), from the broad part of which a very slender and long filament arises. The filament is about eight times as long as the pear-shaped part, and trails behind when the whole is swimming.

SECTION V.

ADULT MEDUSA OF CORYNE (SARSIA) MIRABILIS.

The form of *Sarsia mirabilis* is very peculiar, and remarkably well adapted for its rapid movements. It is somewhat bell-shaped, or hemispherical; with the upper vault broad and flat, and the sides rather prolonged, assuming even, sometimes, in the relaxed state, a more or less cylindrical form; when contracted, the whole body has an almost hemispherical shape, and may, at times, really assume the appearance of a nearly globular mass. All these forms pass so rapidly from one into another, that it is exceedingly difficult to say which is the more natural. When pausing, motionless, in the midst of the water, these medusæ have the most regular hemispherical form; the four arms are then stretched at right angles with the lower margin of the animal, for a short distance, and their extremity hangs vertically downwards, for perhaps two or three times the length of the greatest diameter of the central mass. After remaining for a while immovable in that position, the walls of the body may relax, the arms elongate, the sides hang loosely downwards, and the whole body assume a more cylindrical form: when the arms hang straight downward in graceful undulations, and without forming any marked angle with the base of the animal. In this state of relaxation, the tentacles may elongate for three, four, and even more than five times the length of the bell-shaped part of the animal (wood-cut 30, p. 212). Sometimes they extend to an extraordinary length (wood-cut 28). But if, suddenly starting from this inactive position, the body contracts powerfully to move onward, it assumes an almost entirely spherical form, the thinner margins contracting more extensively than the main mass, and shutting almost entirely the lower opening of the body. The arms naturally follow, in their undulations,

Fig. 28.

