

subjected to a process called *Digestion*, by which the solid portions are reduced to a fluid state also, the nutritive separated from the excrementitious, and the whole prepared to become blood, bone, muscle, &c. The residue is afterwards expelled, together with those particles of the body which require to be renewed, and those which have been derived from the blood by several processes, termed *Secretions*. Matters in a gaseous form are also received and expelled with the air we breathe, by a process called *Respiration*. The nutritive fluids are conveyed to every part of the body by currents, usually confined in vessels, and which, as they return, bring back the particles which are to be either renovated or expelled. This circuit is what is termed the *Circulation*. The function of Nutrition, therefore, combines several distinct processes.

## SECTION I.

## OF DIGESTION.

204. Digestion, or the process by which the nutritive parts of food are elaborated and prepared to become part of the body, is effected in certain cavities, the *stomach* and *intestines*, or *alimentary canal*. This canal is more or less complicated in the various classes of animals; but there is no animal, however low its organization, without it, in some form, (54.)

205. In the polypi, the digestive apparatus is limited to a single cavity. In the Sea Anemone, (*Actinia*), for example, it is a pouch, (Fig 18, *b*,) suspended in

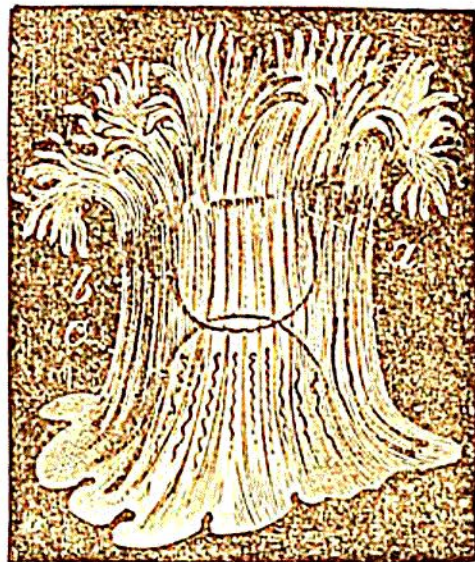


Fig. 48.