

by which they perform their motions, and fulfil their functions, have been before explained.* It is to these organs, as well as for their food, that the polypes are indebted for what constitutes their principal ornament, that resemblance which, though born to blush unseen, even in the depths of the ocean, their Creator has enabled them to assume, of a plant or shrub in full blossom adorned with crimson or orange-coloured flowers.

In the *fixed* polypes, the tentacles are the only motive organs, but in those that can *shift their quarters*, as the *Hydra*,† they move by fixing each extremity like the leech, probably by means of something analogous to suckers. As the former, like their analogues in the vegetable kingdom, are fixed by their base, and consequently cannot move from place to place in search of food, Divine Goodness has compensated this to them, and they obtain all the advantages of locomotion by the progressive multiplication of their *oscula*, or mouths, each surrounded by a coronet of tentacles, so that they have, on all sides, and at all heights, numberless sets of organs constantly employed in collecting food from the fluid they inhabit; some, it is stated, by creating a vortex, like the wheel animals, and the majority, probably, by means of minute suckers, or some viscid tenacious secretion. What each individual collects does not merely serve for its own nutriment, but also contributes something to that of the whole community,‡ so that though some may contribute more to the common stock and others less, yet the deficiency of one is made up by the redundancy of another.

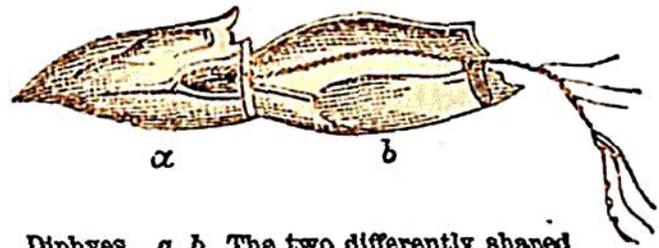
The tentacles of the fresh-water polypes forming the

* See Vol. i. p. 174.

† Ibid. 182.

‡ Ibid. 180.

Fig. 80.



Diphyes. a. b. The two differently shaped bodies.