

the forms of the polypus from the surface of which it has been separated. The interior of the gelatinous polypus is composed of corpuscles and fibrous tissue; the proportions of the two elements vary in different specimens, but the fibrous tissue generally predominates. The corpuscles are of a rounded form, and they vary both in size and shape. In a specimen, which was a good example of this variety of polypus, as it is generally presented to the surgeon (it being white and soft, so as to be easily compressible by the thumb and finger,) I found that these cells varied in shape from being quite round to an irregular oval,—from being the size of a blood corpuscle to one half or even one quarter the magnitude of that body,—the greater number appeared certainly smaller than the blood disc; but they presented every variety of size between that of a blood disc and a fine granule, and there was very little symmetry in shape or size even between those that were nearest to each other. These cells are not generally in close contact, but they are separated by a delicate gelatinous substance, which is sometimes quite transparent and structureless; in other parts, where the polypus is resisting, these cells are separated by delicate, wavy bands, having the appearance of fibres, and to the surface of these fibres the cells are observed to adhere. In some parts, these wavy, gelatinous-looking fibres form almost the entire substance of the polypus; the rounded cells being scattered very sparingly, in other parts, these fibres are absent. The wavy fibres run in the long diameter of the polypus; they possess considerable toughness, and, although they are easily separated from each other, so that individual fibres can be isolated, they cannot be torn across without the use of considerable force. The single fibres are extremely fine; so that, when they are separated from each other, they have the appearance of transparent lines, whose diameter varies from half to a quarter of that of the blood disc. Interspersed through the substance of the polypus were many spindle-shaped crystals. Upon the application of acetic acid, the fibres became swollen, and assumed a confused, gelatinous appearance, and lost all their fibrous character; the corpuscles were also converted into a similar mass, in which, however, a large number of granules were observable. The action of the acetic acid also brought into view a large number of fine, spindle-shaped crystals, some of which only had been previously observed. The gelatinous polypus sometimes attains to so great a degree of hardness, that it is with difficulty cut through by a pair of scissors; this peculiar condition appears to be produced by the increase in quantity and solidity of the fibrous tissue, and in the diminution of the quantity of corpuscles, and in the absence of the gelatinous matter between them. It has been already stated, that the vascular polypus is composed of