

present polyps which have become solely reproductive in function, just as the dactylozooids have become solely tentacular in function. Hence, in these colonies certain members of the community devote themselves to the catching of food, but cannot eat it themselves; they deliver it to other members of the colony, whose only function is to eat and digest it. These latter nourish the whole colony by supplying blood to it through the common circulation as the products of their digestion; in several genera, they have become reduced to the condition of mere stomachs, having no tentacles or prehensile organs of their own. Other members again of the colonies neither catch food nor eat it, but are entirely devoted to the production of eggs and larvæ, and have thus become reduced to the condition of mere egg-bags.

In the *Stylasteridæ*, the polyps are lodged within pores of two kinds, just as in the *Milleporidæ*, and, as in these latter, the dactylopores are far more numerous than the gastropores. In some genera of *Stylasteridæ*, the pores are scattered irregularly all over the surfaces of the coral stocks; but in others they are grouped into systems of very great complexity, and almost all gradations of this complexity are shown in the various genera, so that the successive stages by which natural selection has brought about the development of the systems is clearly to be traced.

This series of stages of development is shown in the set of diagrams on the opposite page. Figure 1 represents the condition existing in the genus *Sporadopora*, the dactylopores shown as the smaller black circles are here irregularly grouped together with a single large gastropore. The gastropore has a white dot in its centre, marked S, indicating the "style," a rod of the calcareous skeleton, which in many genera of *Stylasteridæ* acts as a support to the mouth-bearing polyp within its pore and which by its presence gives the name to the family, *Stylasteridæ*. In *Sporadopora*, the pores of the two kinds are irregularly scattered over the whole coral surface.

In the case of another *Stylasterid*, *Allopora nobilis*, the development of regular systems of polyps is commenced. The arrangement is shown in Figs. 2 and 3. In some parts of the branches of a specimen of this Coral, the dactylopores are to be found simply grouped in rings around a single centrally-placed gastropore, just as in the Tahitian *Millepora* (see Fig. 2). In other parts of the same specimen, a further complication arises, as shown in Fig. 3. A shallow groove leads from each of the dactylopores to join the gastropore cavity, and a radiate figure is produced. No doubt the grooves are developed by the constant bending inwards of the