

The embryo now extends itself and assumes an ellipsoidal form. On one pole the walls grow thinner and soon present a stellate cleft which becomes the mouth. Simultaneously with the formation of the mouth the tentacles show themselves as short, blunt, conical outbulgings of the body walls.

The embryo commonly remains two or three days within the covering of the inner shell. This, however, gradually softens and becomes changed into a tenacious adhesive mucus, which is finally dissolved in the water, and the animal becomes free with all the essential characters of the adult.

It will be thus seen that in *Hydra* no gonophore is formed as an independent zooid, and that the generative elements not only originate in the walls of the body but are retained there up to the period of their liberation in the surrounding water. It will also be apparent that in *Hydra* development takes place without the post-embryonic period of its life presenting anything like a true metamorphosis, and that there is here nothing which can be regarded as a proper larva stage. In this respect *Tubularia* agrees most nearly with *Hydra*, but here the Actinula is a true larva differing from the adult not only in its free mode of life but in its form, though it has no obvious organs which are not also present in a more or less modified shape in the adult. *Myriothela* differs still further in having a more distinctly pronounced larval stage, and in undergoing a well-marked metamorphosis, the Actinula of *Myriothela* being provided in a very characteristic way with transitory organs which entirely disappear during the further course of the development.