

Another form, called *Cyanéa*, often attains an immense size. Mr. A. Agassiz gives an account of one that measured seven feet across the disk, and whose appendages stretched out to the length of one hundred and twelve feet; their average size, however, is about one-third the dimensions just given.

The nettling sensation produced by certain Jelly-fishes, when brought in contact with the naked body, has long excited the attention of naturalists. The *Cyanéa* is one of the most formidable in this respect, and Prof. Edward Forbes describes an English species as "the terror of tender-skinned bathers. With its broad, tawny, festooned, and scalloped disk, often a full foot or more across, it flaps its way through the yielding waters, and drags after it a long train of riband-like arms, and seemingly interminable tails, marking its course when the body is far away from us. Once tangled in its trailing 'hair,' the unfortunate, who has recklessly ventured across the graceful monster's path, too soon writhes in prickly torture. Every struggle but binds the poisonous threads more firmly round his body, and then there is no escape; for, when the winder of the fatal net finds his course impeded by the terrified human wrestling in its coils, he, seeking no combat with the mightier biped, casts loose his envenomed arms, and swims away. The amputated weapons, severed from their parent body, vent vengeance on the cause of their destruction, and sting as fiercely as if their original proprietor itself gave the word of attack." Peculiar oval cells, each containing a little filament capable of protrusion, have been supposed to be the seat of this nettling sensation. These are called urticating cells, and the whole class of Jelly-fishes are called *Acalephs*, or Sea-nettles, from this peculiar property. These stinging cells cover the surface of the body and appendages, though, strange enough, there are many species possessing these cells that produce no stinging sensation whatever.

The strangest feature in the history of certain Jelly-fishes belonging to the order Discophoræ, as the *Aurelia*, for instance, is their wonderful mode of reproduction. It would require too long a time to detail the successive steps made before the whole truth was known regarding the development of these

Jelly-fishes. How the successive stages were described by different zoologists as entirely distinct animals, until at last it was proved that they all represented the different stages of growth of one animal. The *Aurelia*, for example, gives origin to little locomotive eggs; these, swimming in shoals, finally effect lodgments on the rocks, one end becoming attached, and the other throwing out little tentacles. In this condition they resemble miniature polyps. Gradually they increase in length, and little transverse seams or constrictions, appear on the sides of the body; these constrictions deepening, and their edges becoming scalloped. Finally, the seams have deepened to such an extent that their appearance has been compared to a pile of saucers, and at last they become separated one after the other, each turning upside down, and swimming off free Jelly-fishes. In this stage, they are called *Ephyra*, and are entirely unlike their parent in appearance. By the fall they will have attained their adult form, and a diameter of twelve or more inches.

By far the greater number of our smaller Jelly-fishes belong to another order called *Hydroids*, and pass through phases of growth equally as strange as those above recounted. The limits of our paper will allow only a few words on this group. On the rocks at low water, and on floating weeds, little moss-like tufts will be found in abundance. This plant-like growth, when examined under a lens, will be seen active with life. The ends of the little twigs and offshoots appear as little bell-shaped cups, with tentacles studding the free ends like the plates of a flower; these are the fixed individuals, and are the purveyors of the community. In the spring time little capsules will be noticed on the twigs, within which are to be seen minute globular bodies, to be finally set free by the rupture of the capsules, as free swimming Jelly-fishes. Others bud directly from the twig and drop off singly, as in *Coryne*. These are found by thousands in spring-time. Not only do these free Jelly-fishes bud from fixed communities, but in one species young ones bud from the Jelly-fish itself, as in *Lizzia*, and certain others where the young bud from the stomach. All these Hydroid Jelly-fishes produce eggs, which again give rise to plant-like communities.