

which are also most thickly covered with *Membranipora*. The small fish *Antennarius* is in the same way coloured weed-colour with white spots. Even a planarian worm is similarly yellow-coloured, and also a mollusc (*Scyllaea pelagica*). The white patches in some of the crabs, no doubt, represent also, to some extent, the white shells of barnacles, though these are not very abundant in the weed." Professor Moseley instanced a tunicate, a glassy *Salpa* of which the nucleus was of a dark red-brown colour in imitation of the tint of the floating sea-weed.

But many of the vertebrates, especially our common marine fishes, furnish striking instances of protective coloration. The sole in an advanced larval condition is patched in the most grotesque and erratic manner with warm ochreous blotches, and resembles a minute shred of floating weed, for the transparent parts of the fish are invisible. The definite transverse bands of the newly hatched cod and the longitudinal stripes of the late post-larval ling may be persistent traces of ancestral coloration not now of much protective significance; but the post-larval lump-sucker (*Cyclopterus*), the father-lasher (*Cottus*), and other common shore fishes are grotesquely blotched with the most diverse shades of black, brown, green, and yellow, while irregular patches of gleaming white may occur on the head or trunk and perfectly mimic fragments of corallines and encrusting polyzoan colonies. The protective coloration of immature and mature animals is, however, a familiar subject, and the object of this short paper is to point out protective structures less familiar and less obvious, and in many instances not hitherto observed or fully described. It is interesting to find that in the highest and lowest vertebrates alike there occur these curious embryonic and larval wrappings, differing so much in structure and origin, but subservient to the same protective purposes.