specimens of the cuttle-fish which I am about to describe, I find that the edges of the sucking-disks are all denticulated, the horny rims, having extremely fine and sharp teeth which would sink deep into the flesh of the victim when the suckers are made to act. Let us now suppose that a lobster comes within reach of a cuttle-fish who has not dined. Instantly one of the long, lithe tentacles, which are endowed with a high degree of muscularity, darts out, and as quickly as a cat would clap her paw on a mouse, the extremity of the arm, covered with suckers, rests upon the crustacean. The moment the cuttle-fish feels the contact it draws back the muscular piston of its suckers, almost with the speed of lightning. A vacuum is created and the sharp edges of the disks are pressed against the lobster with a force equal to the weight of the water above it. Should the lobster make desperate efforts to escape, the cuttle-fish has the power of increasing the adhesion, by the retraction of the membranous disks, as well as the fleshy plugs, and thus the vacuum is enlarged and made more perfect. Should the victim still prove troublesome, and struggle hard when touched by the fatal spell, more and more of the suckers are called into play; the other arms twine round it and render it utterly powerless, and finally it is dragged within reach of the formidable beak, and speedily crushed in pieces. Should the cuttle-fish, for any reason, desire to release its grasp, it has merely to push forward the piston and the vacuum is, in a moment, destroyed by the admission of air below the suckers, and then the arms relax their hold. When we fancy the whole ten arms twining themselves round some victim—wrapping it around in their clammy folds with inconceivable rapidity, and then perhaps twelve hundred suckers at once, sinking into the flesh and seeming to drink the very blood, we see what a formidable grasp is that of the cuttle-fish and how terrible its embrace must be.

Another thing well worthy of study is the mode of locomotion in the cuttle-fishes. On examining that part of one of them from which the head protrudes, a tube or funnel is discovered which is connected with the bronchiæ, or breathing organs. The water is admitted to these organs by valves, which allow it to enter on the muscular dilatation of the body; and when the water, so admitted, has communicated its oxygen to the blood, it is expelled by this tube, just as in the case of fishes, it is driven out at the gills. But then this effete water, after purifying the blood of the