apparently one penalty for its safety, for it is much incommoded in its progress through the water. Violently lashing its tail it rushes hither and thither, up and down, through the surface water, with its head in its "house" much as a terrified cat with its head in a bag. The jelly so loosely clings to the ascidian that it frequently drops off.

But the curious protective features in larval vertebrates form a subject so varied and so new that more cannot be attempted in these notes than to point out some of the more salient features which recent researches have made known to us. Amongst the vertebrates we find embryonic structures often resembling in detail the analogous organs in larval invertebrates; nay, even in the vegetable world, in the embryonic stages of plants, and in the young growing parts of adults, corresponding provisions occur. The stipules, the bases of leaves, the more or less broadened proximal part of the petiole, the pedestal of the petiole, scales, spines, hairs, and gummy matter, all subserve the same important protective purposes. Sir John Lubbock, referring to the presence of stipules, declares that the most general reason for their existence seems to be the protection of the young and tender bud, though they may take at times the function of leaves, while they may be spiny for the protection of the whole plant, sometimes glandular, and so on; but their protective function explains their frequent transiency. It is precisely so in the animal kingdom. We see in the highest groups, in quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and ascidians, examples of the curious care which is exercised in nature to ensure the safety of the tender and otherwise defenceless young. Doubtless the absence of colour in the case of typical pelagic larvæ is one of the most remarkable provisions; but hardly less so is the presence of peculiar colours in other larval as well as adult forms. The late Professor Moseley looked with little less than amazement at the strange colours exhibited by the inhabitants of the gulf-weed in the Sargasso Sea. "The shrimps and crabs which swarm in the weed are," he wrote, "exactly the same shade of yellow as the weed, and have white markings upon their bodies to represent the patches of Membranipora. The largest shrimp occurring has a dark-brown colour with sharply defined areas of brilliant white upon its surface, thus closely resembling the older darker-coloured pieces of weed,