

tity of this black liquor, by which the waters are totally darkened; and then it escapes, by lying at the bottom.

The common *Polypus* is found at the bottom of wet ditches, or attached to the under surface of the broad-leaved plants that grow and swim on the waters. The same difference holds between these and the sea-water polypus, as between all the productions of the land and the ocean. The marine vegetables and animals grow to a monstrous size. It is the same between the polypi of both elements. Those of the sea are found from two to three or four feet in length, and Pliny has even described one, the arms of which were no less than thirty feet long. Those in fresh waters, are seldom above three parts of an inch long, and when gathered up into their usual form, not above a third of those dimensions.

Whoever has looked with care into the bottom of a wet ditch, when the water is stagnant, and the sun has been powerful, may remember to have seen many little transparant lumps of jelly, about the size of a pea, and flatted on one side: such also as have examined the under side of the broad leafed weeds that grow on the
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