

narrative of the successive steps which have furnished us with a connected account of the extraordinary modes of reproduction of this class of animals. The first facts relating to the history of the earlier stages of development of the most common Jelly-fish of the European seas, the *Aurelia aurita*, were observed by Sars, and related by him in a paper published in 1829,¹ and more fully illustrated in a subsequent work,² issued in 1835, which opens a new era in the natural history of the Acalephs. The fundamental discoveries made by Sars were afterwards generalized by Steenstrup, and presented to the world in a most unexpected connection with other genetic phenomena which had remained entirely unintelligible.

The first paper of Sars contains only descriptions of animals not noticed before;³ but among them are those found in the sequel to represent the transitory stages in the growth of the common Medusa. These are here described as *Scyphistoma* and *Strobila*; the first being considered as a distinct genus of Polyps, the second as

don, 1853, 8vo. fig.—KROHN (A.), Ueber die Natur des kuppelförmigen Anhangs am Leibe von *Philirhoë bucephalum*, Arch. Naturg. 1853, I. p. 278.—McCREADY (J.), Description of *Oecania nutricula*, and the Embryological History of a singular Medusan Larva found in the cavity of its Bell; Proc. Elliott Society, Charleston, S. C., 1857.—Gymnophthalmata of Charleston Harbor, Proc. Elliott Society, Charleston, S. C., 1858.—On the Development of two Species of *Ctenophoræ* found in Charleston Harbor, Proc. Elliott Society, Charleston, S. C., 1859.—ALLMAN (G. J.), On the Structure of the Reproductive Organs of certain Hydroid Polyps, Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinb. 1858.—Additional Observations on the Morphology of the Reproductive Organs in the Hydroid Polyps, Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinb. 1858.—SEMPER (C.), Ueber die Entwicklung der *Eucharis multicornis*, Zeitsch. f. wiss. Zool. 1858, vol. 9, p. 234, fig.

¹ The first paper of Sars appeared in 1829, under the title of *Bidrag til Suedyrenes Naturhistorie af M. Sars*, Cand. Theol. Förste-Hæfte, med sex illuminerede Steentryktafler, 8vo. Bergen, 1829. At that time Sars was still "Candidatus Theologiæ." An abridged translation of this paper, with a reproduction of the plates, was published in Oken's *Isis* for 1833, p. 221. I myself have never seen the original, and I find that most writers have quoted the investigations related in this paper as

bearing the date of 1833; but this is erroneous. The paper contained in the *Isis* of 1833 was not forwarded to Oken by Sars, but is simply a translation of the paper of 1829, with a few introductory remarks by Thienemann.

² Sars (M.), *Beskrivelser og Jagttagelser over nogle mærkelige eller nye i Havet ved den Bergenske Kyst levende Dyr af Polypernes, Acalephernes, Radiaternes, Annelidernes og Molluskernes Classer, etc.*, Bergen, 1835, 4to. with 15 plates. I am indebted for a copy of this rare work to my friend Professor Eschschricht of Copenhagen. As it may not be easily accessible to naturalists in this country, I would mention that abstracts of its contents may be found in the *Isis* of Oken for 1837, p. 354, in the *Annales d'Anatomic, etc.*, II. p. 81, and in Wiegmann's *Archiv für Naturgeschichte*, 1836, 2d vol. p. 197. What relates to Acalephs may be found p. 197–200.

³ I avoid intentionally, whenever I can, the use of the expression *new*, as applied to animals not known before to naturalists; for, besides the impropriety of applying the word *new* to what has only been unnoticed before, I find that students of Palæontology are much puzzled in ascertaining whether that expression, when applied to fossils, means a newly discovered species, or one belonging to the more recent geological formations.