

stands in direct communication with a special stem of the chymiferous system, occupying a central position in the axis of the body, while in *Discophoræ* there is one eye to each simple radiating tube.

Thus, whatever be the special combination of the organs in the *Discophoræ* proper, and however high they may appear to stand on account of the extraordinary development of some of their parts, the sum total of the structural complication in the *Ctenophoræ* is unquestionably greater than that of the *Discophoræ*. This will appear more distinctly, when we consider the similarity in general appearance of the *Discophoræ* to the naked-eyed *Medusæ* born from *Hydroids*. In this connection it must also be remembered, that, while the majority of *Discophoræ* enjoy only a consecutive individuality (see p. 97), since several *Medusæ* arise from the division of one single larva, in *Ctenophoræ* the reproduction takes place by a direct metamorphosis, each egg producing a single individual.

If multiplication of identical parts is everywhere an indication of inferiority, and definite numbers with definite relations a mark of superiority, *Ctenophoræ* will undoubtedly take the lead in that respect also over the *Discophoræ*, in which repetition of identical parts prevails, without a perceptible difference in their relations; while in *Ctenophoræ* the number of spherosomes never varies, and there exist between them such definite relations as simulate bilateral symmetry.

The *Hydroids*, as a whole, and considered within the limits assigned to that order in the preceding section, unquestionably occupy the lowest place in the class. For, in addition to the permanent character of indefinite repetition of identical parts, we observe among them, almost universally, a more or less characteristic polymorphism, sometimes to such an extent that it becomes difficult to distinguish secondary individuals from actual organs. Individuality is almost lost in the dependence in which the members of a community stand toward each other. Even when individuality becomes most prominent, it is so in individuals which are short-lived, in comparison to the duration of the combined individuals to which they owe their existence.

That the *Discophoræ* proper constitute a distinct order by themselves, appears plainly from the higher complication of their structure when compared to that of the naked-eyed *Medusæ*. In the latter, the radiating chymiferous tubes are all alike, equally distant one from another, simple, and either few or very numerous, and meet with a simple circular tube, instead of forming a complicated network of anastomoses along the margin of the disk, as in the *Discophoræ* proper, whose radiating tubes are alternately more or less complicated in their course, some extending as straight tubes to the margin of the disk and communicating with the base of the eyes, while others branch in various ways, and end in a network of anastomoses at the margin. In *Discophoræ* proper, there exist always