

HUXLEY'S CLASSIFICATION OF THE SIPHONOPHORE, 1859.

HYDROZOA.

I. CALYCOPHORIDÆ.

- 1st Family. Diphydæ: Diphyes, Galeolaria, Abyla.
- 2d Family. Sphaeronectidæ: Sphaeronectes.
- 3d Family. Prayidæ: Praya.
- 4th Family. Hippopodiidæ: Hippopodius, Vogtia.

II. PHYSOPHORIDÆ.

- 1st Family. Apolemiadæ: Apolemia.
- 2d Family. Stephanomiadæ: Halistemma, Forskalia, Stephanomia, Agalma.
- 3d Family. Physophoriadæ: Physophora.
- 4th Family. Athorybiadæ: Athorybia.
- 5th Family. Rhizophysiadæ: Rhizophysa.
- 6th Family. Physalidæ: Physalia.
- 7th Family. Velellidæ: Velella, Porpita.

From the circumstance that his last work embraces all the animals then referred to the class, Lesson truly marks the close of a period in the history of the progress of the classification of Acalephs. From his days forward, the improvements bear chiefly upon the arrangement of the Hydroids, first brought into the sphere of attraction of the Medusæ about that time. Affinities, unsuspected before, lead to new combinations; and a more intimate acquaintance with the structure of all these animals, by the very novelty of the disclosures, suggests comparisons with the remotest types, and mere analogies are exalted into real affinities. But step by step, the test of homological relationship being applied to these aberrations, and embryological study adding its controlling influence, the Acalephs are finally circumscribed within limits which would now seem natural, and subdivided into groups which are not likely to undergo other than changes of secondary importance.

In concluding this rapid sketch of the classifications of the Acalephs I may be permitted to remark, that a retrospective glance over the many attempts thus far made to express the various degrees and different kinds of affinities of these animals, in the shape of diagrams, should satisfy any one how readily different authors, approaching the study of these animals with a very different preparation, have in the end agreed upon the natural limits of a larger and larger number of their subordinate groups, in proportion as the information concerning these groups has become more and more precise. The disagreement among authors has been most persistent upon the classification of those animals only, respecting the structure of which our knowledge has also remained deficient for a longer period; and it is