

continues, in a measure, to move to and fro from the main cavity, through the radiating tubes and back again, the contractions of the injured margin obliterating the canals through which it would otherwise ooze out at the periphery. The same is the case with the fringes along the margin of the oral appendages; they gradually drop off, and with them parts of the arms themselves, especially toward their extremities, which become blunt. Evidently they are now in a dying condition, and can scarcely regulate their course. They are frequently capsized, and air accumulates in the cavities of the body, especially in the genital pouches, the lower floor of which is also destroyed. As soon as air has been lodged in these cavities, the Aurelia is forced to the surface of the water, where it floats at the mercy of the elements. No sooner has it ceased to regulate and control its motions, than swarms of little shrimps fix themselves upon its surface, and enter its interior cavities, where they are occasionally found crowded in hundreds. A small species of *Hyperia* seems particularly to delight in resorting to our species. The gelatinous disk is the last part of our Medusa which may be found floating in this way upon the water, deprived of all its appendages. But such is the continuity of the tissues of the umbrella, in Aurelia, that it does not break up in regular organic segments, as does that of our *Cyanea*.

The manner in which stranded Medusæ are sometimes covered in hot, dry, and windy days, by floating sand, and moulded in it, explains the possibility of the preservation of *Acalephs* in a fossil state. The few specimens found in the fine-grained limestone of Solenhofen were probably preserved in that way.

With a view to a closer comparison of these animals with other Radiates, it may not be out of place to notice here, that the whole upper floor of the body of the Medusæ bears the same relations to the main cavity and its radiating tubes, as the roof of a Starfish does to its furrowed under surface. We are, therefore, justified in considering this disk as an abactinal structure; and it may well be said that a Medusa, with its convex bell-shaped umbrella, resembles closely some of the bell-shaped Crinoids, the abactinal parts of which form the calyx, so called, while the ambulacral area may be compared to the lower surface of a Medusa, since the absence of a stem in *Comatula* has already taught us, that this support is not an essential element of the structure of a Crinoid. Moreover, while attached to their Hydroids, the naked-eyed Medusæ do not differ from the Crinoids, even in that respect.