

the water by the pressure of those below. Two such shoals, in close proximity, stretched over an extent of about fifty feet. That they were actually spawning was ascertained by raising specimens out of water, when sperm was seen streaming freely from the appendages of their lower surface, and eggs flowing along the channel of their arms. It was about sunset, and the closing night prevented me from ascertaining how long they remained together. The next day they were scattered by the wind, and a few days afterwards immense numbers were found stranded upon the rocks and the long sand-beach at Nahant.

It might be supposed that the great destruction of these animals by the autumnal gales, would put an end to the development of the eggs of the stranded specimens, but this is not necessarily the case. On the contrary, I believe, from the observations I have had the opportunity of making, under such circumstances, that the coincidence of their period of spawning with the stormy season of the year, is a provision to bring them into the proper condition for their future development and growth. Thrown among the rocks, upon the sea-weeds, they become entangled and break up; but, by the time they are torn in pieces, the eggs, which have been accumulating in the little pouches formed by the folds of the margins of the arm, have reached their planula state, and are ready to swim about as independent animals, as soon as they are cast off. I have frequently raised, in confinement, eggs and planulæ taken from such stranded specimens, found, at low-water, dry, among the sea-weed. Even from such specimens as had been thrown up on the beach, I have raised young which have gone through the first stages of their scyphostoma state, though the mother animal had been left high and dry for hours. As with the returning tide such specimens are set afloat again, it is evident that their brood may frequently make its escape into the water and undergo their normal development after having been for a time ashore.

The fate of these young has already been described in a previous section; they soon become attached to rocks, dead shells, or sea-weeds, and assume their Polyp-like condition, during which, owing to their strong adherence to their resting surface, they are free from the dangers to which their delicate organization would be exposed during storms. The succession of fine days, along our shores, during the month of October, following the equinoctial gales, is the season during which the planulæ, set free by the decomposition of their parents, float about in search of a resting-place. The winter is the season during which they undergo their transformation from the scyphostoma state to that of the strobila, which has completed its growth about the middle or towards the end of the month of February. At this time, the wreath of tentacles which crowns these bodies is cast off, and, during the fair days of that season, in the month of March or early in April, the saucer-like disks of the strobila begin to separate. This takes place earlier or later,