

alternate with four masses of folds, hanging like rich curtains, loosely waving to and fro, and as they wave, extending downwards, or shortening rapidly, recalling, to those who have had an opportunity of witnessing the phenomenon, the play of the streamers of an aurora borealis. All these parts have their fixed position; they are held together by a sort of horizontal curtain, which is suspended from the lower surface of the gelatinous disk. This horizontal curtain is itself connected with the disk, fastened to it as it were by ornamental stitches, which divide the whole field into a number of areas, alternately larger and smaller, now concentric, now radiating, between which the organs already described are inserted.

The most active imagination is truly at a loss to discover, in such a creature, any thing that recalls the animals with which we ourselves are most closely allied. There is no head, no body, there are no limbs, and, if the most zealous advocate of the serial arrangement of the animal kingdom were to urge the necessity of, at least, designating as a mouth the opening which leads into the inner cavity of the body, I should almost feel inclined to concede that there is such a series, if he would undertake to point out where that opening is placed, without having made a thorough study of this singular being.

A glance at the beautiful plates (Pls. III., IV., V., and V^a.) of this animal, drawn by Mr. Sonrel, which adorn the third volume of this work, will at once facilitate the further illustration of our inquiry. Plate V. *Fig. 1* represents the aspect of the disk as seen from above. Though no attempt has been made to represent, in connection with it, any parts of the lower surface which may extend beyond the limits of the disk, yet, when seen floating near the surface of the water, the marginal threads, as well as the curtains hanging from the centre, are often observed extending far beyond it,—the tentacles even to a distance of ten, twelve, or twenty feet, and more. Pl. III. gives a profile view of the same, and as the disk is seen edgewise, with the edge slightly bent downward, its thickness is, of course, brought into sight, at the expense of its circumference; while, on the contrary, all the organs that hang from the lower surface are beautifully exposed to view, and their diversity cannot fail to excite surprise, even though, from the manner in which they are represented, only one half of them is seen, and the marginal threads are, in a great measure, represented as cut, in order not to enlarge still more the frame of the plate. A specimen of the size of that here figured, when fully expanded, would have some of its threads, at least, stretching to twice the length of the plate, and in a specimen of about three feet in diameter, I have seen them extending in every direction from twenty to thirty feet beyond the outline of the disk.

The two bunches, which occupy about the middle of the figure, are the organs generally designated as ovaries,—the three bunches of curtain-like folds, to the right and left of them and between them, but hanging lower down than the ovaries,