

HYDROIDÆ.

CHAPTER FIRST.

CORYNE AND ALLIED MEDUSÆ.

SECTION I.

GENERAL REMARKS UPON HYDROIDS AND NAKED-EYED MEDUSÆ.

As the facts bearing upon the genetic connection and zoölogical affinities of the Hydroids and certain Medusæ, which have been described as independent animals, are not yet sufficiently known, or generally acknowledged, to be made the basis of comprehensive generalizations, I find it necessary, in this part of my work, to adopt a different method of presenting my subject, from that pursued in the preceding chapters. Thus far, when considering the representatives of the Ctenophoræ and Discophoræ, I have found it possible to discuss their natural affinities, the combinations of their structural elements, their mode of development, and their special classification, without regard to the contributions I have had an opportunity of making myself to their Natural History. But respecting the order of Hydroidæ, in which I have been led to include animals thus far considered as widely different from them, I am compelled to adopt another course, and first, to describe, minutely, those which I have had an opportunity of examining, before I proceed to discuss their natural relations. To avoid misapprehensions, however, I will here briefly state, that I see no reasons for separating, as distinct equivalent groups, the Siphonophoræ from the naked-eyed Medusæ and Hydroids proper; nor do I believe any of these animals to be more closely allied to the Polyps than to the higher Acalephs. Even