

tube opens into the vertical tube on the side of the bulb (*Fig. 17, b'*), towards its lower margin, and so far behind its edge as scarcely to appear connected with it, when seen in front.

The free Medusæ of this species are very sensitive to the density of the medium in which they live, and the mere change arising from the difference in density between freshwater and salt-water is sufficient to kill them almost instantaneously. Taking up in a spoonful of sea-water a fresh *Sarsia*, in full activity, when swimming most energetically, and emptying it into a tumbler-full of freshwater of the same temperature, the little animal will at once drop like a ball to the bottom of the glass, and remain forever motionless, killed instantaneously by the mere difference of density of the two media. This experiment, which I have often repeated, has led me to notice that the total disappearance of our small Medusæ uniformly coincides with heavy rainfalls, while the larger species survive. These little Medusæ occur in large numbers along our wharves, during the spring and summer, and as they swarm near the surface of the sea, they are particularly exposed to the action of rain-water. They move rapidly in all directions with the greatest freedom and energy. They are exceedingly voracious, and feed upon any kind of marine animals, not sparing their own species.

I have observed an interesting anomaly in this species, in the number of its parts. Though I have examined many thousand specimens of our *Sarsia*, I have always found it to present the most uniform arrangement of its parts, the specimens having, in every instance, shown four tentacles, four eye-specks, four radiating chymiferous tubes, and four main bundles of muscles. But, in one instance, two specimens were noticed, among many others, in which the parts were arranged in sixes; there were six tentacles, six eye-specks, six radiating chymiferous tubes, and six bundles of muscles. The specimens were somewhat larger than the common four-rayed specimens, the disk measuring about half an inch; and I for a moment suspected this to be a distinct species; but, upon close examination, I found that every part was so perfectly identical with the corresponding parts of the four-rayed individuals, that I failed to discover the slightest specific distinction. I would, therefore, view this case as a mere accidental modification of the number of parts, of no more importance than the accidental development of an additional spur on the foot of a cock, or an additional finger to the hand or paw of an animal. It was, perhaps, more striking here, as it ran through all the systems and influenced the general appearance of the whole body, but the six eye-specks were all identical in the details of their structure, and identical with those of the four-rayed ones. The connection between the circular tube and the radiating ones was the same, and the muscular bundles presented the same arrangement in relation to the lower margin, and intervening radiating tubes, as in common specimens.