

Worms, the Earthworms and Leeches furnish a still wider range of comparisons when contrasted with the marine types. Among Gasteropods and Acephala, this obtains to the same extent; the most gigantic Ampullariæ and Anodontæ are small in comparison to certain *Fusus*, *Voluta*, *Tritonium*, *Cassis*, *Strombus*, or to the *Tridacna*. Among Radiata even, which are all marine, with the exception of the single genus *Hydra*, this rule holds good, as the fresh water Hydroids are among the smallest Acalephs known.

This coincidence, upon such an extensive scale, seems to be most favorable to the view that animals are modified by the immediate influence of the elements; yet I consider it as affording one of the most striking proofs that there is no causal connection between them. Were it otherwise, the terrestrial and the aquatic representatives of the same family could not be so similar as they are in all their essential characteristics, which actually stand in no relation whatsoever to these elements. What constitutes the Bear in the Polar Bear, is not its adaptation to an aquatic mode of existence. What makes the Whales Mammalia, bears no relation to the sea. What constitutes Earthworms, Leeches, and Eunice members of one class, has no more connection with their habitat, than the peculiarities of structure which unite Man, Monkeys, Bats, Lions, Seals, Beavers, Mice, and Whales into one class. Moreover, animals of different types living in the same element have no sort of similarity, as to size. The aquatic Insects, the aquatic Mollusks fall in with the average size of their class, as well as the aquatic Reptiles and the aquatic Birds, or the aquatic Mammalia; but there is no common average for either terrestrial or aquatic animals of different classes taken together, and in this lies the evidence that organized beings are independent of the mediums in which they live, as far as their origin is concerned, though it is plain that when created they were made to suit the element in which they were placed.

To me these facts show, that the phenomena of life are manifested in the physical world, and not through or by it; that organized beings are made to conquer and assimilate to themselves the materials of the inorganic world; that they maintain their original characteristics, notwithstanding the unceasing action of physical agents upon them. And I confess I cannot comprehend how beings, so entirely independent of these influences, could be produced by them.