

and, in like manner, those animals which are pursued will be able to escape more easily, if their colour is as little different as possible from that of their surroundings. If therefore originally an animal species varied so as to present cases of all colours, those individuals whose colour most resembled the surroundings must have been most favoured in the struggle for life. They remained more unobserved, maintained and propagated themselves, while those individuals or varieties differently coloured died out.

I have tried to explain, by the same sympathetic selection of colour, the wonderful fact that the majority of pelagic glass-like animals—that is, of those which live on the surface of the open sea—are bluish, or completely colourless and transparent, like glass and water itself. Such colourless, glassy animals are met with in the most different classes. To them belong, among fish, the *Helmichthyidæ*, through whose crystalline bodies the words of a book can be read; among the molluscs, the finned snails (*Heteropods*) and butterfly snails (*Pteropods*); among worms, the *Alciope* and *Sagitta*; among Tunicates, the *Salpæ* or Sea-barrels; further, a great number of pelagic crabs (*Crustacea*), and the greater part of the *Medusæ*; Umbrella-jellies (*Discomedusæ*); Comb-jellies (*Ctenophora*). All of these pelagic animals, which float on the surface of the ocean, are transparent and colourless, like glass and like the water itself, while their nearest kin live at the bottom of the ocean, and are coloured and opaque like the inhabitants of the land. This remarkable fact, like the sympathetic colouring of the inhabitants of the earth, can be explained by natural selection. Among the ancestors of the pelagic glass-like animals which showed a different degree of colourlessness