

convergent selection has not only changed the external form; the inner structure too has become so alike, that they were formerly classed as one order.

Another striking example of the convergence of character, or similarity of form, is furnished by the medusæ. This apparently uniform class of animals consists of two entirely distinct families, as I have shown in my Monography of these zoophytes (1881). The smaller and neater polyp-jellies (Craspedota or Hydromedusæ) are descended from hydropolyps; the larger and more splendid flap-jellies (Acraspedæ or Scyphomedusæ) are derived from scyphopolyps; the form of development is likewise altogether different in the two groups, and indeed both in an ontogenetic and phylogenetic sense. Nevertheless the medusæ of both families have become so alike by adaptation to a similar mode of life and the same activity of their organs, that they are often not to be distinguished.

But in the vegetable world we have even more numerous and more striking examples of deceptive resemblances owing to adaptation. For instance, many water-plants are distinguished by large, bare, flat, roundish leaves, which float on the surface of ponds; the genuine water-lilies (Nymphæaceæ) herein resemble many Potameæ, Butomeæ, Alismaceæ, Gentianeæ, although these latter belong to entirely different families. Further, numerous parasitic plants, which are descendants of widely divergent families, often become extremely alike—for instance, many orchids, cytineæ, labiate flowers, etc. Their adaptation to similar parasitical ways of life produces in all the same disappearance of green leaves, a peculiar fleshy development of the stalk, flowers, etc. Such deceptive resemblance produced by