

it over the surface of the waves. It is connected with the body only by its middle, its extremities being at liberty, which enables the animal to steer its course in any direction.

I shall mention one more of these gelatines, which falls under the observation of every one who is fond of sailing, or rowing, in a boat on the ocean or in its estuaries. If he cast his eye upon the water in fair weather, he will see numbers of animals, in shape resembling an expanded umbrella, with some flesh-coloured organs round the summit or centre, carried with the rising or falling tide, and dancing along with a seemingly undulating motion: these belong to what are vulgarly called the jelly-fish, or *sea-nettles*. Though the body of the animals of this tribe is gelatinous and easily melts, yet its weight is considerable, and it is said that they can render themselves heavy or light at pleasure, which some effect by means of a natatory vesicle, but the means in all has not been ascertained; unless they were thus gifted, as their specific gravity exceeds that of the water, they could not raise themselves to the surface, where they are seen swimming very gracefully, as it were by an alternate systole and diastole, admitting and rejecting the sea-water. Several of them,* for it is not common to them all, when touched, cause a sensation similar to that produced by the sting of a nettle:† it is supposed by some that this is done by their tentacles, which are conjectured to have little suckers, as indeed is very probable, which

be expelled whenever the creature wishes to sink beneath the waves, whence, by again filling its singular balloon it is enabled to emerge at pleasure.—T. R. J.

* *Rhizostoma*. Cuv. *Cepheæ Rhizostomæ*, Lam.

† See Appendix, Note 22.

The stinging faculty of the *Acalephes* depends upon an irritating secretion that exudes from the surface of the body, and may be transferred to a napkin or other substance upon which the animal is laid.—T. R. J.