

has commissioned to keep within due limits the populace of the waters.

One of their most remarkable and unique features is the manner in which circulation takes place in them. They have *three* hearts; the principal one, seated in the middle, sends the blood through the arteries: the blood returns by a *vena cava*, which, dividing into two branches, carries it to the two lateral hearts, each of which sends it to the gills for oxygenation, whence it returns again by the intermediate heart.

The *Octopus*, called by the French writers the *Poulpe*, probably a contraction of *polype*, differs from the common cuttle-fish, having neither the arms nor long tentacles of that animal, and instead of the large heavy bone has only two small cartilages. This different structure is rendered necessary by the difference in their habits. The body of the octopus is small, and it has legs sometimes a foot and a half in length, with about two hundred and forty suckers on each leg, arranged, except near the mouth, in a double series; so that it walks with ease. They are often out of the water, and frequent rough places, are excellent swimmers, and move rapidly in the water with their head behind. The cuttle-fish, whose legs are short and body heavy, prefer the bottom, and do not attempt to swim, for which they are not well fitted. Providence has, therefore, given them their long arms to compensate for the shortness of their legs.

A remarkable peculiarity distinguishes these animals. They are furnished with an organ which secretes a black fluid, with which they can produce an obscurity in the water that surrounds them, on any appearance of danger, or to conceal themselves from their prey. The Chinese are said to use it in making the ink that bears the name of their country; something similar, but not so black, is prepared from it in