time with the sponges, as inhabiting the caverns of the rocks—he says, "Of the *Cnidēs* there are two kinds, one in the hollows, which adheres to the rocks; others, that range at large, are met with in smooth places,* and on the flat shore."†

It seems not accordant with the usual accuracy of this great Philosopher and Naturalist, where he is treating formally of the same kind of object, to distinguish it by two different names, nor is it likely that he would have placed them in separate chapters, as if they were distinct things. He would surely not have devoted one whole chapter to the *Tethys* and *Acalephē*, and another to the *Cnidē* and *Sponge*, unless he had meant they should be considered as distinct animals. Still there is one circumstance that seems in one respect to indicate their identity: one species of each appears to be usually fixed, and the other free. But this, by itself, does not furnish a satisfactory proof. With regard to these *Acalephēs* or *Cnidēs* of Aristotle having any right to be considered as belonging to Linné's genus *Medusa*, it seems chiefly based upon their name of *Nettles*, which probably was given them, from a faculty they possessed of stinging, in some measure, like a nettle, a faculty which some of the *Medusas* are known to possess in a remarkable degree.‡ But Aristotle does not appear to intimate that such an effect follows its touch,

* In the text it is εν τοις μειζοσι, but Athenæus reads εν τοις λειοις, which better agrees with the context.

† Gr. πλαταμωδεσιν—it may perhaps mean flat rocks. Aristot. Ibid. l. v. c. 16.

‡ The stinging property of many such Tentacula, for instance, in the Medusa and Holothuria, likewise deserves notice. This, which, with some modifications, also exists in several plants, appears to be the lowest degree of the, so called, electric power in several fishes, not recurring in the higher orders of animals, and perhaps comparable as regards man, to the magnetic influence alone.—Carus. i. 47. § 60.