

ing experiment. With a razor I took shavings of the cuticle from the callous part of my own foot. One of these shavings I presented to the tentacles of a fully-expanded *Tealia crassicornis* (*Urticina crassicornis* of Europe and America). After contact, and momentary adhesion, I withdrew the cuticle, and examined it under a power of 600. diameters. I found, as I had expected, *cnidæ* standing up endwise, the wires in every case shot into the substance. They were not numerous—in a space of .01 inch square, I counted about a dozen. . . .

“These examples prove that the slightest contact with the proper organs of the Anemone is sufficient to provoke the discharge of the *cnidæ*; and that even the densest condition of the human skin offers no impediment to the penetration of the *ecthoræa*.

“As to the injection of a poison, it is indubitable that pain, and in some cases death, ensues even to vertebrate animals from momentary contact with the capsuliferous organs of the Zoöphyta. . . . I have elsewhere recorded an instance in which a little fish, swimming about in health and vigour, died in a few minutes with great agony through the momentary contact of its lip with one of the emitted *acontia* of *Sagartia parasitica*. It is worthy of observation, that, in this case, the fish carried away a portion of the acontium sticking to its lip; the force with which it adhered being so great, that the integrity of the tissues yielded first. The acontium severed, rather than let go its hold.

“Now, in the experiments which I have detailed above, we have seen that this adhesion is effected by the actual impetration of the foreign body by a multitude of the *ecthoræa* whose barbs resist withdrawal. So that we can with certainty associate the sudden and violent death of the little fish with the intromission of barbed *ecthoræa*.”

The following observation by J. P. Couthouy, from the author's Report on Zoöphytes (p. 128), if it is beyond question, shows power even in the Actinia's presence. “Having a number of *Monodontas* (a genus of univalve Mollusca allied to our *Trochi*) too much crowded in a large jar of water, I