soft gelatinous mass, by means of an internal cartilage. In the former, this cartilage is of a circular form; in the latter (Fig. 84,) it is oval, and bears upon its upper edge a thin pellucid membrane of a triangular shape, which extends the whole length of the upper surface of the body. As this membrane is connected with the cartilage at its middle part only, while its edges are loose and floating, it is peculiarly adapted, when above the surface of the water, to catch the wind and act as a sail. Such, indeed, appears to be the purpose for which it was given to the animal; enabling it to steer its course by means of the loose edges, and also of the tentacula, which extend from the lower side of the body, and act as a rudder, while the sail is impelled by the wind.

A construction still more artificial is provided in another family of the same order, denominated the *Physalida*, or *Hydrostatic Acalepha*. They have attained this latter appellation from their being rendered buoyant by means of vesicles filled with air, which enable them to float without the necessity of using any exertion for that purpose. The *Physalia*, or Portuguese Man-of-War, as it is called, (Fig. 85,) is furnished with a large air-bladder, of an oval shape, placed on the upper part of the body; and also with a membrane of a beautiful purple colour, which, as in the Velella, serves as a sail. These Zoophytes are met with in great numbers in the Atlantic Ocean, and more especially in its warmest regions, and at a considerable distance from land. In calm weather they float on the surface of the sea, rearing their purple crests, and appearing at first like large air bubbles, but distinguishable by the vivid hues of the tentacula which hang down beneath them. Nothing can exceed the beauty of the spectacle presented by a numerous fleet of these animals, quietly sailing in the tropical seas. Whenever the surface is ruffled by the slightest wind, they suddenly absorb the air from their vesicles, and becoming thus specifically heavier than the water, immediately disappear, by diving into the still depths of the ocean. By what process they effect these changes of absorption and of reproduction of air, yet remains to be discovered. Other genera, as the *Phys-*