

chial system—associating it, an annelid, or perhaps more strictly an aberrant and highly specialized nemertid, with ascidians and with *Amphioxus*—brought it into the fraternity among which the first hazy indications of a passage between the invertebrates and vertebrates seemed inclined to dawn. The singular history of its development added to the interest which had already been excited by the peculiarities of its structure. In his series of papers on the development and metamorphoses of the larvæ and young of Echinoderms, Johannes Müller figured and described what he regarded as an echinoderm larva under the name of *Tornaria*. A couple of years ago Metschnikoff found reason to believe that *Tornaria* was the larva, not of an echinoderm, but of *Balanoglossus*; and within the last year Alexander Agassiz has confirmed Metschnikoff's view by tracing all the stages of its development from *Tornaria* to the fully formed worm.

From the time we entered the current, immediately after leaving the Cape Verde Islands, the sea had been every night a perfect blaze of phosphorescence. The weather was very fine, with a light breeze from the south-westward. There was no moon, and although the night was perfectly clear and the stars shone brightly, the lustre of the heavens was fairly eclipsed by that of the sea. The unbroken part of the surface appeared pitch-black, but wherever there was the least ripple the whole line broke into a brilliant crest of clear white light. Near the ship the black interspaces predominated, but as the distance increased the glittering ridges looked closer, until toward the horizon, as far as the eye could reach, they seemed to run together and to melt into one continuous sea of light. The wake of the ship was an avenue of intense brightness. It was easy to read the smallest print sitting at the after-port in my cabin; and the bows shed on either side rapidly widening wedges of radiance, so vivid as to throw the sails and rigging into distinct lights and shadows. The first night or two after leaving San Iago the