

coloured pieces of Weed, which are also most thickly covered with *Membranipora*.

The small fish (*Antennarius*) is in the same way coloured Weed-colour with white spots. Even a Planarian worm, which lives in the Weed, is similarly yellow-coloured, and also a Mollusc (*Scyllaea pelagica*). The white patches on some of the Crabs, no doubt, represent also, to some extent, the white shells of Barnacles, though these are not very abundant in the Weed. A small Crab, *Nautilograpsus minutus*, which varies very much in colour, is very abundant amongst the Weed, and constantly to be found also in large numbers hanging on to floating logs and similar objects elsewhere, and in these cases the white patches on its body correspond closely with the barnacles by which the logs are covered. These little crabs vary extremely in the arrangement and forms of the white patterns on their backs, and we once found a number of them (I believe of the same species) which were clinging to the floats of the blue-shelled Pelagic Mollusc *Ianthina*, and these were all coloured, for concealment, of a corresponding blue.

Pelagic animals generally seem to be either colourless or specially coloured, with a view to protection from enemies both above and below the surface of the water. Probably the blue colour of *Ianthina* and *Verella* is protective as resembling that of the ocean water. *Verella* has serious enemies in the oceanic birds and in turtles. We caught a small turtle (*Chelone imbricata*) which had its stomach full of *Verella*. There are numerous other Pelagic animals thus coloured blue for protection, such as the Mollusc *Glaucus*, *Porpita* allied to *Verella*, and some *Salpæ* in which the nucleus is blue. There are also blue *Medusæ*.

The dark red-brown colour of the nucleus of most *Salpæ* is probably an imitation of that of floating seaweed, and it occurs in several other Pelagic animals, as, for example, *Pelagonemertes*. The extraordinary transparency of most Pelagic animals, is, no doubt, a protective contrivance. In both *Salpa* and *Pelagonemertes*, above referred to, almost the entire body, with the exception of the smaller parts coloured brown, as described, are colourless and transparent, like glass. It is extremely difficult to see these transparent animals, when one attempts to collect them from a boat.

Almost all classes of land or shore animals seem to have contributed to the Pelagic fauna forms which have become in most cases extremely modified to suit their changed mode of existence. Amongst Mammals there are the Whales and Porpoises, the ancestors of which, no doubt, long after they had deserted the land and had taken to a Pelagic existence, came