the feebler form as the feebler have been degraded or reduced from the more ample, the answer is this, that the impoverished condition attributed to the pleon in the Caprellina is correlated to other appearances of degradation in the same group, that no Caprelline stage has ever been observed in the embryos of the other two groups, and that the strongly developed pleon would scarcely have been so general, not only among Amphipods, but also in the neighbouring orders of Crustacea, had the ancestral form been nearest to the rudimentary one. Hence it appears to be a natural arrangement to place the Caprellina after, though next to, the Gammarina, and to let the Hyperina come last.

To any one glancing over the great variety of forms presented by different species of Amphipoda, and comparing an *Orchestia* with a *Cystisoma*, a *Rhabdosoma* with an *Anonyx*, a *Pariambus* with a *Gammaracanthus*, it might seem extremely rash to assume that all the Amphipoda could possibly have a lineage in common. But after prolonged examination of homologous parts the observer would not be so much impressed with the difficulty of a common descent as with the intrinsic simplicity of the processes by which these wonderful differences of structure might have been produced. For if a son may be taller than his father, a daughter stouter than her mother, in the same family one child have straight hair and another curls, one brother be smooth and the other a hairy man, variations of a corresponding kind suffice to explain the most striking dissimilarities that the Amphipoda can furnish. Lengthen or contract a limb, make a joint tumid or flatten it out, multiply the spines or prickles, narrow or expand the body, or so treat one part of it at the expense of another, let it be cylindrical or depressed or laterally pinched, stiffly outstretched or coiled into a ball,—by such differences as these, in regard to which many species present the most minute transitions, it will be found that genera and families are separated, without the least necessity or reasonableness of attributing to them other than a common origin.

In the hinder part of the pleon the Hyperina show a general but very variable agreement with the Gammarina, but in the front part of the pleon, and especially in the appendages of that part, the agreement is great and very constant. These appendages, commonly called pleopods, are perhaps less subject to variation throughout the two groups than any other part of the organism. Each of the first three segments of the pleon has a pair of these swimming-feet, the three pairs usually differing only a little one from the other; each member of a pair consists of a stem or peduncle supporting two branches; the branches as a rule differ only slightly from one another, each being of tapering form, composed of several joints, of which the first is invariably the largest; of these joints every one has an apical pair of long feathered setæ, which on the small terminal joint are close together. No joint except the first is ever privileged to have more than one pair of these plumes, and no joint is ever normally without its pair.

On the peduncles of these swimming-feet, near the lower angle on the inner side, there