

The Acraspeda include the common jelly-fish, and excepting the genus *Pelagia* they all go through an alternation of generations. The free-swimming medusæ produce eggs, the larvæ fixing themselves to the bottom and developing a zoophyte differing from the hydroid-zoophyte in that it produces only one kind of bud; the division is transverse, the medusæ not being produced, as in the hydroida, by evagination (Fig. 404).

In northern waters, for instance on the coast banks and in the fjords of Scandinavia, the brown stinging jelly-fish *Cyanea capillata* and the transparent jelly-fish *Aurelia aurita* are the most important species; in the southern part of the North Sea we find the blue *Cyanea lamarckiana*, which annually drifts up to the Skagerrack and the west coast of Norway. Distantly related to these is *Rhizostoma octopus*, which is similarly dis-

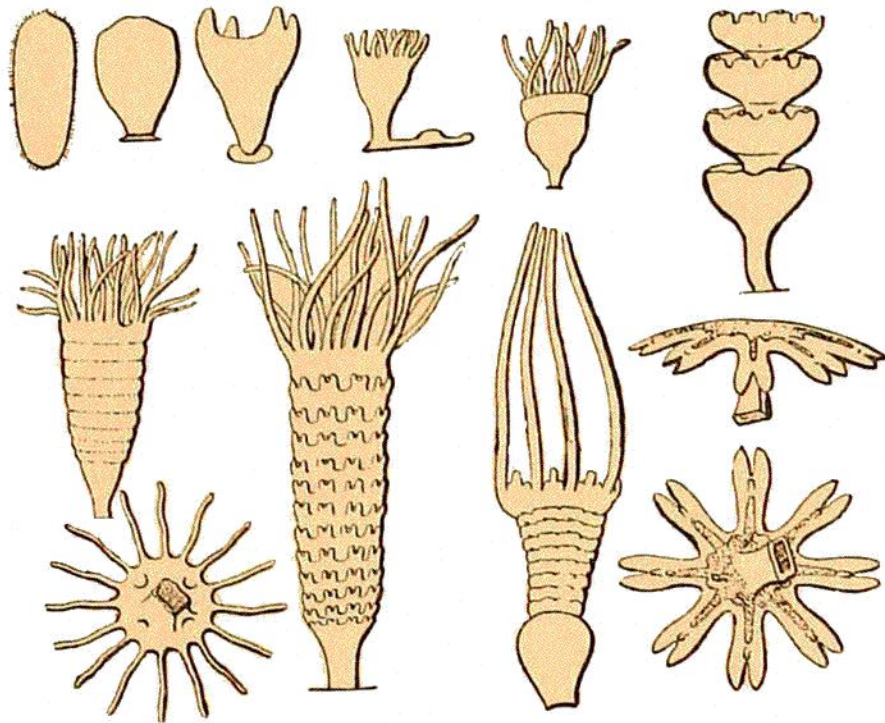


FIG. 404.

Development of *Aurelia aurita* from the ovum. The upper series shows the development of the larva (planula) into Scyphostoma; the lower series shows stages in the formation of small medusæ by division. (After Hatschek, from Hertwig.)

tributed and occurs in Scandinavian waters as a visitor. The oceanic genus *Pelagia*, as already indicated, has a direct development, and is thus holopelagic (see Fig. 405). Of certain smaller groups resembling the Trachymedusæ, I may mention the genera *Atolla*, *Periphylla* (Fig. 406), and *Nausithoë*, which are wholly oceanic forms widely distributed mainly in deep water:

During the cruises of the "Michael Sars" the distribution of medusæ in the Norwegian Sea and in Norwegian coast waters has for years been investigated, and Damas, who is working up the material, has found 64 species, of which 14 are new to science; some are shallow-water forms, and others belong to the deep fauna of the fjords. In 1900 I noted the occurrence of *Cyanea capillata* all over the warm part of the Norwegian Sea, and later on the drift of this form from the coasts has been traced, as also the drift of *Cyanea lamarckiana* from the North Sea to the west coast of Norway (see Chapter X.).