XXV.—On Monopus medusicola, a species of Leech.

By Philip Henry Gosse, A.L.S.

[With a Plate.]

In my 'Devonshire Coast' (p. 359) I have mentioned the occurrence of a small Leech parasitic on the Medusa, Wilsia stellata. As I have not been able to assign it to any recognized genus of the Hirudinidae, I will here repeat the characters, give a figure of it, and appropriate to it a name. Though the note and the drawing taken of it at the time, are not so detailed as I could have wished them to be, yet as I can answer for their accuracy so far as they go, they will at least serve to identify the form, should it occur again.

Monopus (mihi).

Body soft, subcylindrical, depressed; anterior sucker imperfect; posterior a circular disk, at the extremity of a short thick truncate column, distant one-third of the total length from the anal extremity, on the ventral side. Anterior extremity obtuse; posterior briefly attenuate. Eyes eight, set around the frontal margin of the anterior disk. Intestinal canal straight, simple; anus terminal.

Monopus medusicola (mihi).

Less than 1 line in length; pellucid: eyes hyaline: parasitic on Medusae.

The ovary was ample, and contained a number of clear, glo- bular, highly refractile ova, variously grouped, in the posterior moiety of the abdomen. Close-set transverse annuli surrounded the anterior portion. The intestinal canal had two fusiform swellings, and was enveloped near the oesophagus with opaque cloudy matter.

The generic name was suggested by the foot-like appearance of the posterior sucker.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE VIII. B.

Fig. a. represents Monopus medusicola, ventral surface.
Fig. b. the same, laterally.

58 Huntingdon Street, Barnsbury Park, March 5, 1855.