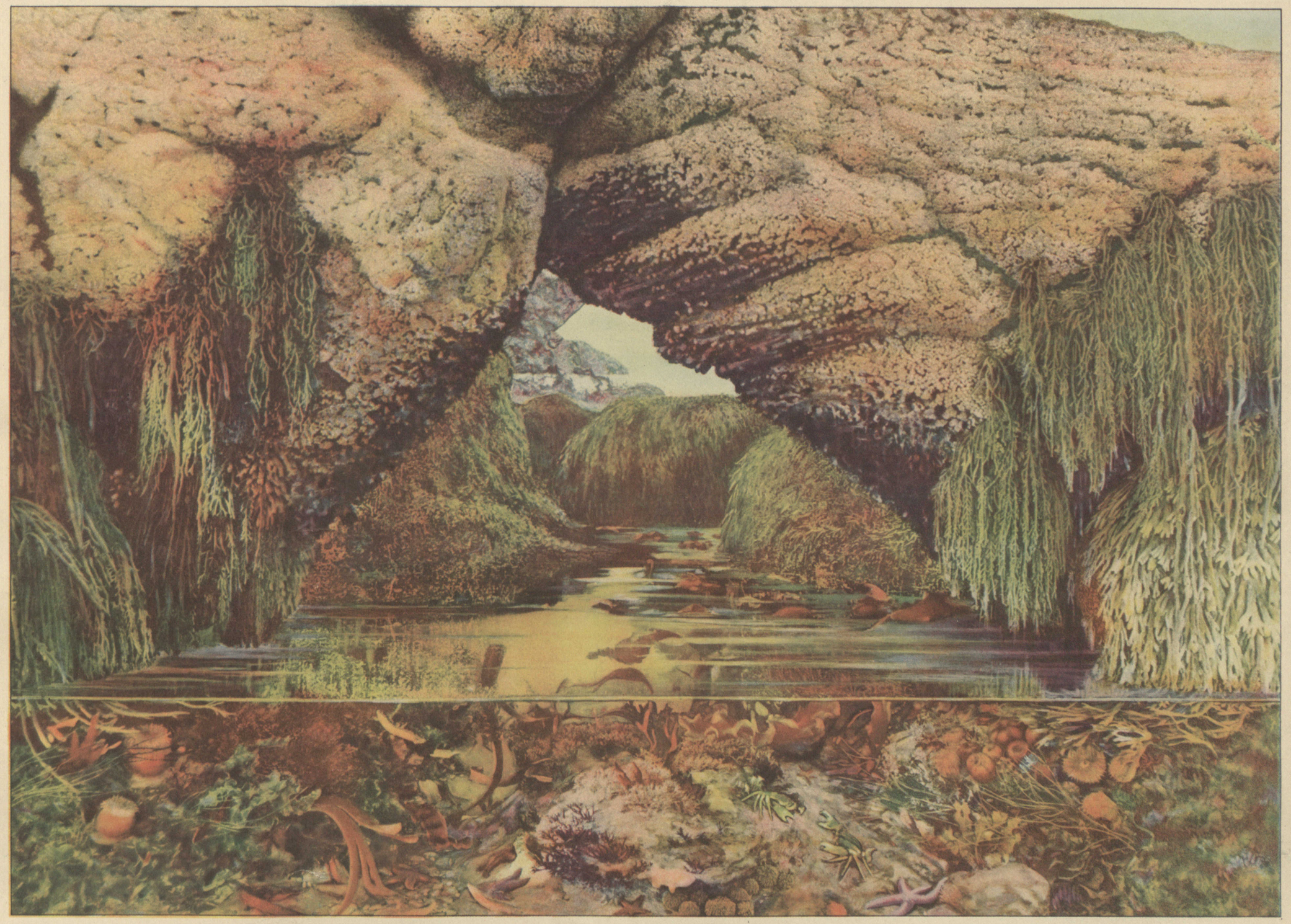

Portuguese Man-of-War

Model in blown glass, at the American Museum, made under the direction of Roy W. Miner

A BEAUTIFUL marine organism which floats in tropical seas. It is not a single creature, but a colony of many individuals, connected with each other like Siamese twins, and of several different kinds. The largest and most brilliantly colored is inflated with gas and floats on the water surface. From its fancied resemblance to a caravel or ancient man-of-war suggested the name of the organism. All the other members of the colony hang from its under side. Some are small and trumpet-shaped and do the feeding for the entire community. Others are finger-like and are "feelers." Still others resemble bunches of grapes. These are egg-layers. Another kind are like long streamers and extend down into the water to act as "drag-anchors." They are also armed with "sting-cells" to slay young fishes, which they afterward draw up to the hungry mouths above.

Nahant Tide-Pool Group

ALONG the rocky coast of Nahant, Massachusetts, the tide, rising and falling through a distance of nine feet, leaves, as it recedes, quiet pools in the holes and crevices at the base of the cliffs, where flourish little worlds of marine plants and animals. Of these tide-pools of Nahant, the "Agassiz Cave," well-known to Harvard students, contains one of the most beautiful of the sea-gardens of the northern shore. Completely covered at high tide, at low water the mysteries of its recesses are revealed to wondering human eyes.

Many-colored star fishes and sea anemones, gorgeous sea-weeds, fragile, pink-hearted hydroids clustered in flower-like masses, delicate pink fronds of coralline, iridescent, violet-tipped Irish moss gleaming like jewels in the sunlight, and velvety green clusters of sea-lettuce—these are some of the beauties of the tide-pool. All have been exactly reproduced in the American Museum, under the direction of Roy W. Miner, Associate Curator of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology.