

young polyps, apparently of *Palythoa fatua*, were commencing the formation of their investing crust at the top of the coil of the young specimen, just below the sponge-body.

A sad accident occurred during this dredging, which threw a temporary gloom over our party, and brought home to us very forcibly the critical nature of our work. The large iron dredge which we were using in preference to the trawl, the ground being rather rough, caught upon a rock or a mass of coral, and brought a sudden strain upon the dredge-rope; and before the rope could be veered, or any other steps taken to relieve the strain, the hook of the foremost span was carried away, and the leading block which was hooked to it flew back and struck William Stokes, one of the sailor lads, with such violence that he was driven against the ship's side. His thigh was broken in two places, and he was so seriously injured otherwise that he never recovered consciousness, and died a few hours afterward. He was buried the following day, and, singularly enough, just before joining in the solemn service which "committed his body to the deep," we had ascertained that his grave was in the very deepest spot which had ever been fathomed in the ocean. His death is recorded on a cross in the crowded little burial-ground in Ireland Island, Bermudas, with the fitting legend, "In the midst of life we are in death."

On Wednesday, the 26th of March, we sounded (Station XXV.) in lat.  $19^{\circ} 41' N.$ , long.  $65^{\circ} 7' W.$ , nearly 90 miles north of St. Thomas, in 3875 fathoms. The bottom brought up in

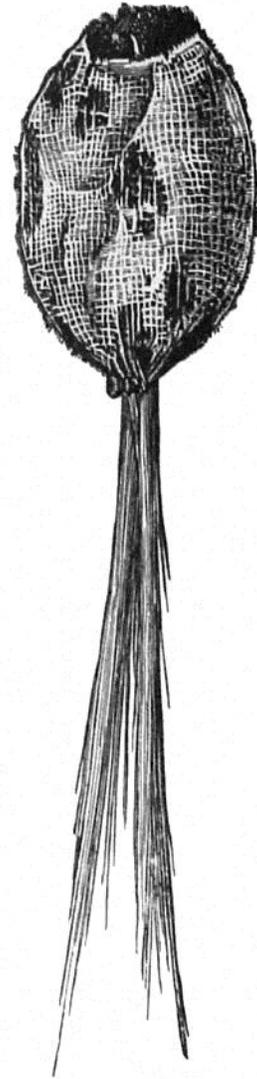


FIG. 69. — *Hyalone ma toxeres*, WYVILLE THOMSON. A young specimen, x 2. (No. 24.)