

long. 72° 10' W.; at a depth of 1240 fathoms; bottom temperature, 37°·2; sea-bottom, blue mud. The tubes, which probably represent those of a *Spiochaetopterus*, are empty.

Family SPIONIDÆ.

The Spionidæ as a rule are more abundant in the littoral region than in deep water, and thus their paucity in the present collection may be explained. In the "Porcupine" expedition, however, the common *Nerine foliosa*, Sars, reached a depth of 725 fathoms, and *Scolecopsis cirrata*, Sars, 584 fathoms; yet the former is one of the most abundant between tide-marks, while the latter chiefly comes from water of some depth off the British shores.

Kinberg mentions two from shallow water, and Schmarda four, two from the laminarian region and two from the Atlantic. Grube does not describe any in the collection made by the "Gazelle," and only one (*Polydora*) in Semper's Philippine series.

They range from the extreme north to the extreme south, one of the most widely distributed being *Polydora*, a genus which bores in rocks of various kinds, or forms tunnels in *Melobesia* as at St. Paul's Rocks.

Scolecopsis, Blainville.

Scolecopsis cirrata, Sars, var.

Habitat.—Dredged at Station 149G (off London River, Kerguelen), January 29, 1874; lat. 48° 50' S., long. 69° 18' E.; depth, 110 fathoms; surface temperature, 40°·2; sea-bottom, volcanic mud.

The specimen is of comparatively large size, agreeing in this respect with the same variety dredged in the Gulf of St. Lawrence by Mr. Whiteaves. The example is fragmentary, the head injured, and apparently in process of reproduction, so that an accurate investigation cannot at present be made. Anteriorly the diameter of the body is about 4 mm. The eyes are less than in *Scolecopsis cirrata*. No tentacle is present.

In general appearance and in the structure of the bristles and hooks it agrees with *Scolecopsis cirrata*, though the colour of the bristles is golden yellow, and the hooks show a shorter main fang than in the common species.

The structure of the body-wall conforms to that observed in British examples of the species, though the greater size renders certain characters more distinct. Thus the cuticle is comparatively thin while the hypoderm is largely developed, the deepest region occurring in the ventral median line at the nerve-area. The latter shows two large neural canals, separated only by a narrow median band of fibres, passing from the base-