

of the different species in a clear way, so that it might be possible, at a glance, to survey and compare the different forms. With this view I have not only given figures of the entire Sponges, of special fragments, and of the skeletal elements, but also numerous *ideal* (less highly magnified) sections through the body-wall. In these diagrammatic figures, which are composed from a number of microscopic sections, the skeletal elements are indicated in blue. If I had attempted to copy the individual sections exactly as they appeared, the essential and typical could not, as a rule, have been distinguished from the unessential and accidental, except, of course, by giving a larger number of illustrations than seemed justifiable for such a slight possible advantage.

Since I had repeated occasion to restudy the rich material, even after the plates were printed off (*i.e.*, at a time when it was no longer possible to introduce corrections), I have been forced several times to indicate a change in my original opinion, by a correction in the text, or by a change in the specific designation of the plates.