

DESCRIPTION.

The description of this peculiar type may be taken under the following heads :—

- I. The House or Cœnœcium ;
- II. The Polypides, including—
 - a. Buccal disk.
 - b. Branchial plumes.
 - c. Digestive system.
 - Mouth.
 - Pharynx.
 - Œsophagus.
 - Stomach.
 - Pyloric chamber.
 - Intestine.
 - Food.
 - d. Body-wall and body-cavities.
 - e. Muscular system and pedicle.
 - f. Nervous system.
 - g. Reproductive organs.
 - h. Budding.
- III. General Remarks and Homologies.

I. CŒNŒCIUM.

At first sight the flexible cœnœcium might be mistaken for a sea-weed, since it is composed of a much branched fucoid tissue, tinged of a pale brownish hue, and semi-translucent. Moreover the whole surface of the thickish stems is hispid with long tapering spinous processes or fimbriæ of the same tough secretion, and perforated here and there by somewhat large apertures with smoothly rounded edges. A more minute inspection reveals various opaque bodies in groups in the interior of the branches; and the appearance of these suggested the relationship of the structure to the Polyzoa or Ascidians. When first seen in the Strait of Magellan it was supposed, Mr. Murray observes, to be a Compound Ascidian. After having subjected it to more careful examination on the completion of the voyage, the late lamented Professor Busk, however, pointed out its distinction from the ordinary Polyzoa; while Professor Herdman, as already mentioned, was satisfied it did not fall under the Ascidians.

The house or cœnœcium of *Cephalodiscus dodecalophus*¹ (Pl. I. fig. 1) consists of

¹ κεφαλή, head; δίσκος, disk; δώδεκα, twelve; λόφος, plume.