

thickish, irregularly rounded or flattened stems of the consistency of soft sea-weed, and having a slight lustre like the semitransparent tubes of many Annelids. The stems have a diameter varying from four or five millimetres to double or treble that breadth in the flattened expansions; but the general size of many of the branches is nearly uniform. They cover a considerable area with their network, the extreme length in one example being about 9 inches, and the breadth 5 or 6 inches. The main trunks appear to have sprung from submarine objects, such as stones or sponges, but instead of standing erect as in a soft Gorgonian, to which the inosculation of the branches give it some resemblance, they seem to have been more or less horizontal, since pillars of the

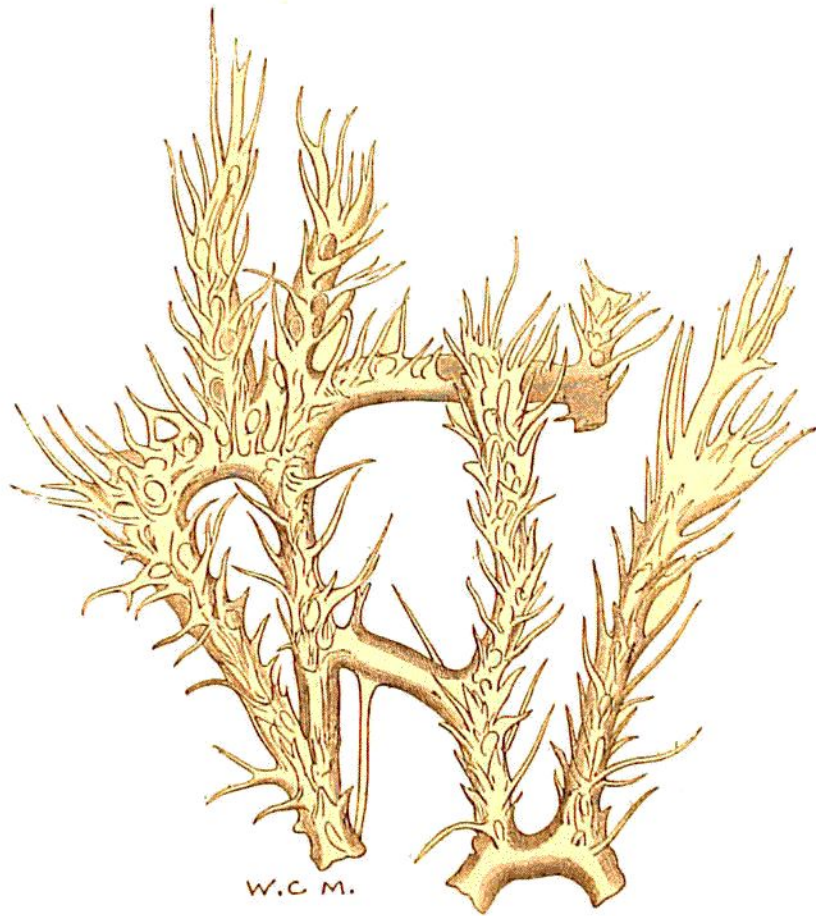


FIG. 1.—Fragment of Polyzoarium of *Cephalodiscus dodecalophus*, M'Intosh.

cœnœcium occasionally pass, like aërial roots, from the underside to the plane of attachment. Various foreign bodies, such as tubes of *Serpulæ* and portions of sponge, are, moreover, occasionally enveloped by the cœnœcium, the originally soft secretion having insinuated itself into all the irregularities of their surfaces, and extended around and beyond them. The surface of the branches is everywhere studded with elevations and ridges, which terminate in long spines of the same tissue—simple, bifid, trifid or multifid—and here and there bending downward to join the main stem, so as to form loops and arches, or inosculating with adjacent spines or fimbriæ (woodcut, fig. 1). Some of the