This gentleman, in consequence of his great taste for entomology, has devoted all his spare time to the capture and study of the West-African insects within his reach, and has sent home a collection which, if not rich in novelties, can at least boast several great rarities; among the latter may be mentioned a fine pair of the handsome *Diadema Dinarcha* of Hewitson, *Myrina Maesa*, Hewits., &c.

VII.—*Descriptions of some new Genera and Species of Alcyonoid Corals in the British Museum.* By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., &c.

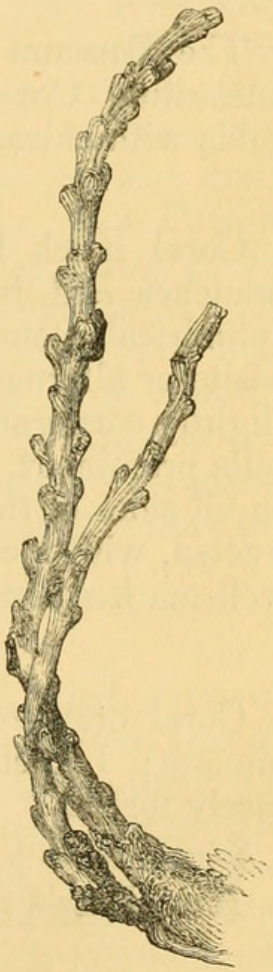
My nephew, Mr. W. A. Smith, sent to the British Museum some years ago a kind of Alcyonoid Coral which he collected in Garden Island near Sydney.

Telesco Smithii.

Coral erect, cylindrical, simple, slightly furcately branched, tubular, cartilaginous, with a thin, hard, crustaceous external coat, smooth below and marked with eight grooves and white streaks. Polype-cells short, subcylindrical, closely adpressed to the side of the stem, with eight grooves radiating from and deeper near the aperture. Tentacles and mouth of the polype quite retractile. Polype-cells variously disposed, even on the same stem, sometimes opposite on alternate sides of the stem, at others solitary and alternate, and at others there are solitary cells in the series between the opposite ones; rarely the polype-cell on one side of the opposite pair is produced into a short branch bearing cells like the stem; the lowermost cells sometimes project nearly horizontally.

Hab. Australia, Garden Island, Sydney. (W. A. Smith, Esq.) B.M.

It grows erect in tufts on shells and stones, 6–8 inches high.



Telesco Smithii.

The genus *Telesco* may be divided into three subgenera or genera, thus:—

I. Telesco.—The coral shrub-like, furcately branched from

the base, the polype-cells terminating the branches and branchlets.

1. *T. aurantiaca*, Lamx. Pol. Flex. t. 7. f. 6 (*T. lutea*, Lamx. Pol. Flex. 231). Australia.
2. *T. ramulosa*, Verrill (*Cornicularia aurantiaca*, Stimpson). Hongkong.
3. *T. pelagica*, Lamx. (*Alcyonium pelagicum*, Bosc; *T. fruticulosa*, Dana). North America.

II. Telescella. The coral erect, with successive spreading clusters of branches, which are ramulose on the sides.

4. *T.* (*T.*) *nodosa* (*Telesco? nodosa*, Verrill). Loochoo.

III. Alexella. The coral erect, simple, with short, cylindrical, adpressed polype-cells on the side of the stem, generally opposite each other, or scattered; some have one or more cells produced into a short lateral branch.

5. *T.* (*A.*) *Smithii*. Australia, Sydney.

The Museum has received from Mr. Rayner several most interesting Corals—among others, the two following Gorgonoids with calcareous axis:—

Raynerella.

Coral much branched, fan-shaped, expanded in a plane; branches and branchlets pinnate; branches diverging, subcylindrical, slender, nearly of a uniform size; branchlets opposite or alternate, diverging. Bark thin, with an even, very slightly corrugated surface, internally finely granular. Polype-cells prominent, roundish, close together, diverging irregularly on all sides of the slender branches; apex rather conical, contracted, with a central dot. Axis calcareous, hard, white, with well-marked longitudinal grooves.

Raynerella aurantia.

Coral orange-yellow; branches and branchlets diverging, pinnate; branchlets ending in a broader tubercle, simple, rarely forked.

Seba, Thes. iii. t. 100. f. 9?

Hab. Bass's Strait, Dewi Reef. (Rayner.)

Brandella.

Coral very much branched, very slender, linear; branches diverging, pinnate, and nearly parallel to each other; branchlets pinnate, opposite or alternate, diverging at nearly right angles, often sinuous, inosculating, uniting the diverging parallel branches into an irregular network. Bark, when dry, very

thin, almost membranaceous, smooth, and slightly wrinkled. Polype-cells on all sides of the branchlets, alternate or opposite, cylindrical, short, smooth externally, with a convex 8-valved top. Axis very slender, thread-like, except the main stems, calcareous, hard, pale horn-colour, very brittle.

Brandella intricata.

Coral fan-shaped, expanded. Stem very irregular; branches and branchlets regularly pinnately disposed, forming an irregular network; some of the uppermost branchlets free.

Hab. Bass's Strait, Dewi Reef. (T. M. Rayner.)

VIII.—*On a new Genus of* Gorgonidæ *from Portugal.* By Edward Perceval Wright, M.D., F.L.S., Professor of Zoology, Trinity College, Dublin.

When in Lisbon in September 1868, my friend Professor J. V. Barboza du Bocage showed me three very remarkable specimens of Alcyonarian Corals which had been taken, from a considerable depth, off the coast at Setubal. The most remarkable of these was a magnificent specimen of *Paragorgia arborea* (Linn.), which was several feet in height, and was in excellent preservation. A second specimen was *Primnoa lepadifera* (Linn.); and the third appeared to me to present some affinities to *Mopsea arbusculum* (Yate Johnson*), a species taken at Madeira. Professor Bocage kindly gave me a specimen for examination, accompanied by a request that, if new, I would describe it. It appears to me not only to be a new species, but to present characters that render it necessary to form a new genus for its reception. I would therefore propose to characterize it as follows:—

Keratoisis, gen. nov.

Coral branched, irregularly furcate; axis jointed, composed of horny and calcareous portions; the latter are *hollow*, *smooth*†, varying considerably in length, and maintaining their form after maceration in caustic alkalies; the branches are given off from the calcareous portions. The so-called "barky layer" (cœnenchyma) is well developed, and contains a large number of calcareous spicules. The polypes are irregularly and somewhat

* "Descriptions of two Corals from Madeira belonging to the Genera *Primnoa* and *Mopsea*," Proc. Zool. Soc. 1862, p. 245, pl. 31. figs. 1 and 1 *a*.

† I have only been able to examine a portion of one of the smaller branches. It is possible that the calcareous joints near the point of attachment of the stem may be striated and solid.