

## CHAPTER SIXTH.

### THE CORALLARIA TABULATA AS HYDROIDS.

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#### SECTION I.

##### MILLEPORA ALCICORNIS LINN.

*The hydra.*—Until now, the genus *Millepora* has been referred to the class of Polyps, and so long as the soft parts of the animals forming this kind of Corals remained unknown, there appeared no reason why they should not be associated with the Coral-builder, even after it had been ascertained that the Bryozoa belong to the branch of Mollusks. The opportunity I had while in Florida of observing *Millepora* alive, has satisfied me, however, that this genus has none of the characteristic features of the true Polyps, the main cavity of the body not being divided by vertical radiating partitions into chambers, as is the case in all the members of this class. Like the true Hydroids each individual has a simple, undivided cavity, with double walls. The individual hydræ (Pl. XV. *Figs.* 4, 5, and 6) resemble very strikingly those of *Halocharis* (Pl. XX. *Fig.* 10), and, to some extent also, those of *Coryne* (Pl. XVII.), and even those of the fertile *Hydractinia* (Pl. XVI.). As in these genera, the mouth (Pl. XV. *Figs.* 5 and 6, *d*) opens at the summit of the head, as a simple, round aperture, alternately opening and closing; the digestive cavity being a simple straight cylinder when empty (*Fig.* 6, *c*), and widening somewhat when full (*Fig.* 5, *c*<sup>1</sup>). The outer wall (*a*) is much thinner than the inner wall (*b*), which consists of large cells (*Fig.* 7, *c*), stretching across the whole thickness of the wall. There are two kinds of hydræ (*Fig.* 4) in one and the same community; the large ones (*Figs.* 4, *d g h*, and 6), with very few, and generally only four or five, and seldom six, short tentacles, around the head, terminating in a more or less spheroidal knob (*Fig.* 6, *e f g*), supported by a short peduncle (*h*), are fewer in number; the smaller ones are much more numerous,