

in Pls. XXXIII. and XXX. complete each other; some figures of *L. amphora* reproducing stages intermediate to those figured for *Obelia*. As the description of the plate will sufficiently elucidate their character, we may simply enumerate them in the order of their relative state of development. Thus, the youngest is Pl. XXXIII. *Fig. 3<sup>a</sup>*; then Pl. XXX. *Fig. 8*, the base of a branch; Pl. XXXIII. *Fig. 3*, a branch and the base of a pedicel; Pl. XXX. *Fig. 9*, a calycle half grown; Pl. XXXIII. *Fig. 4*, a calycle three quarters developed; Pl. XXX. *Fig. 10*, just before the tentacles begin to form; Pl. XXX. *Fig. 11*, somewhat contracted, and *Fig. 12*, the calyx fully shaped out, and the rim, from which the tentacles arise, quite sharp, and *Fig. 13*, the same as the two last figures, showing the calyx broadened at the base by the strongly-retracted hydræ; Pl. XXXIII. *Fig. 7*, the tentacles just beginning to develop, *Fig. 9*, tentacles further advanced, and, finally, *Fig. 8*, the tentacles complete, and the operculum of the calyx upon the point of falling off.

## SECTION VI.

OBELIA COMMISSURALIS *McCR.*

*Protes hydroidea. Adult.*—The hydrarium of this species is a littoral animal, and may be found at low tide along the rocky shores of the Atlantic Ocean, from Nova Scotia to Charleston, South Carolina, attached to stones, or sea-weeds of various sorts. It rises from its base to a height of at least five or six inches (Pl. XXXIII. *Fig. 1*), but is certainly in an adult state even when not more than an inch high (*Fig. 2*), inasmuch as, at that age, it bears medusæ, in the proper season. In its mode of branching it comes nearer to *Laomedea dichotoma* of the European shores, as figured by Johnston in his "British Zoöphytes," 2d ed., Pl. XXVI. *Figs. 1 and 2*, p. 102, than to any other species thus far described. VanBeneden's figure of the European species, under the name of *L. geniculata*, *Mém. Acad. Brussels, 1844, Vol. XVII.*, is better than that of Johnston's. The most closely-allied species, however, is that described by Cavolini, "Memorie, &c., &c., polipi marini, Naples, 1785, Tab. 8, *Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4*," under the name of *Sertularia geniculata*;<sup>1</sup> for, in this species, not only are the reproductive calyces identical

<sup>1</sup> McCrady has already described our species without, however, giving a full account of its development. He was, nevertheless, right in restoring the name of *Obelia Pér.* and *LeS.* to this type,

and I have no doubt that the *Obelia spherulina* figured by Slabber, and quoted by Péron and LeSueur, is the free medusa of the Hydroid described by Johnston and VanBeneden.