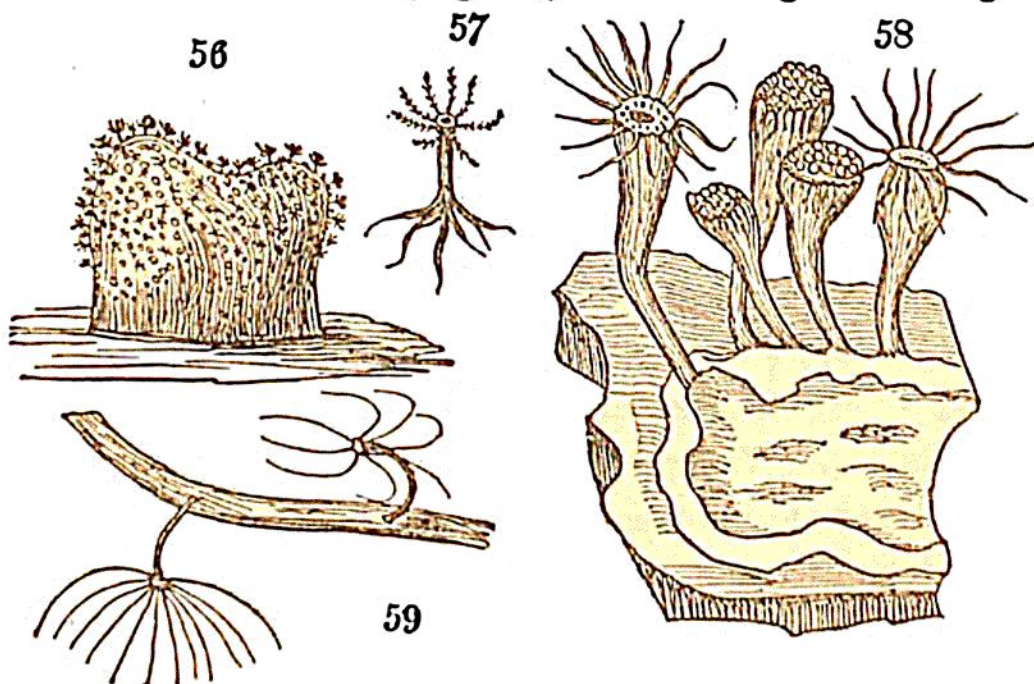


by the Gulf stream, from the shores of the east to the corresponding latitudes of the new world.

§ 3. *Polypifera*.

THE next step in the organic series introduces us to the extensive family of *polypifera*. The transition from the structure of the sponge to that of the polypus may be thus conceived. Suppose the absorbing orifices of the former to be enlarged, and their number to be at the same time reduced; and let these orifices be drawn out into tubes, and provided with vibratory cilia: in addition to which, let there be placed around their margin a circular row of larger filaments, extremely flexible, and capable of twining round any object that comes within their reach, and of conveying it to the central orifice, which performs the office of a mouth. Each tube, thus furnished with a circle of radiating filaments, or *tentacula*, as they are called, is denominated a *Polype*.* The animal structure thus composed has received the name of *Lobularia* (Fig. 56,) and is the genus among



* For the sake of greater distinctness I shall employ the term *polype* to denote the single tube with its tentacula; and shall designate by the Latin term *polypus* the entire animal mass composed of an aggregation of these polypes. *Polypifera*, the name of the order, expresses animals bearing polypes.