

** *Marine species.*

5. H.? LITTORALIS, "white; head large; about 10 extremely short tentacula encircling the base."—Robert Jameson. *

Hydra lutea? Jameson, in Wern. Mem. i. 565.—H. lutea, *Flem. Brit.*

Anim. 554.—H. corynaria, *Templeton*, in *Mag. Nat. Hist.* ix. 419, fig. 58.

Hab. Sea shore, adhering to Fuci. Frith of Forth, *Professor Jameson*. "Found adhering to *Fucus vesiculosus*, at White House Point, Belfast Lough, Oct. 1810," *J. Templeton, Esq.*

The figure represents a branched animal with enlarged clavate heads encircled round the truncate apex, with tentacula rather shorter than the diameter.—To justify the change I have made in the name, it is only necessary to mention that nothing can be more certain than that this species is not identical either with the *Hydra lutea* or *corynaria* of Bosc.

OBSERVATIONS.

Leeuwenhoek† discovered the Hydra in 1703, and the uncommon way its young are produced, and an anonymous correspondent of the Royal Society made the same discovery in England about the same time, but it excited no particular notice until Trembley made known its wonderful properties, about the year 1744. These were so contrary to all former experience, and so repugnant to every established notion of animal life, that the scientific world were amazed; and while the more cautious among naturalists set themselves to verify what it was difficult to believe, there were many who looked upon the alleged facts as impossible fancies. The discoveries of Trembley were, however, speedily confirmed; and we are now so familiar with the outlines of the history of the fresh-water polype, and its marvellous reproductive powers, that we can scarcely appreciate the vividness of the sensation felt when it was all novel and strange; when the leading men of our learned societies were daily experimenting on these poor worms, and transmitting them to one another from distant countries, by careful posts, and as most precious gifts; and when even ambassadors interested themselves in sending early intelligence of the engrossing theme to their respective courts.

* The name affixed to the specific character is that of the person who, so far as I have been able to ascertain the point, added the species to the British Fauna.—Mr Jameson is the present Regius Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh.

† "Antonius v. Leeuwenhoek, civis Delphensis, peritus vitrorum politor, curiosus, et ad paradoxas opiniones pronus." Haller, *Bib. Bot.* i. 583. He was born 1632; elected F. R. S. January 1680; and died in 1723.