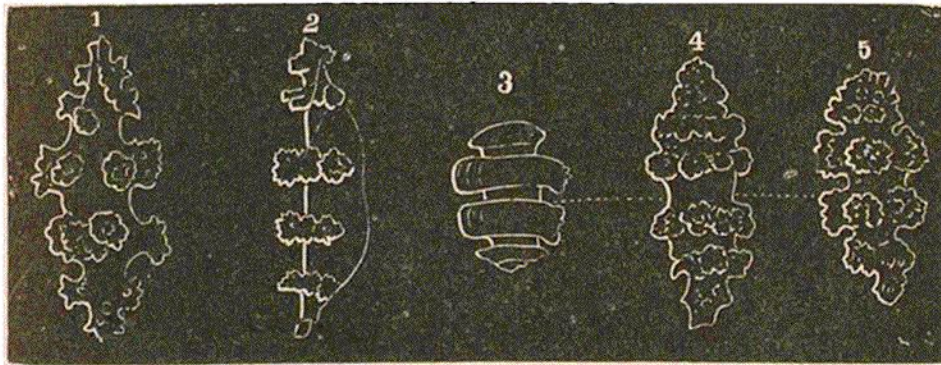


a fourth of an inch in breadth; while the fan often grows to a height and breadth of a yard.

Other species of the Gorgonia family are like clusters of slender twigs, and others like many-branched shrubs or miniature trees.

The exterior of the stem or branch in a Gorgonia is a layer of united polyps, with minute calcareous spicules distributed through the tissues and giving the layer some firmness. It is like a bark to the axis of the stem or branch, and may be peeled off without difficulty, and hence is often called the *cortex*. The outer surface of the dried cortex is often smooth, or nearly so; but sometimes covered with small prominences. Over it there may be seen numerous oblong points (one to each of the prominences if there are any); each of these is the spot where a polyp opened out its tentacles when the zoöphyte was alive.



SPICULES OF GORGONIAE, MUCH ENLARGED.

Kölliker and others have shown that genera, and sometimes species, of the Gorgonacea, may be distinguished by the forms of the calcareous spicules. Some of these knobby spicules are represented in the annexed cut, from figures published by Professor Verrill. The most common forms are those of figures 1, 4, 5; they occur, with small differences, in the genera *Gorgonia*, *Eugorgia*, *Leptogorgia*, etc. Figure 1 is from the *Leptogorgia eximia* V. Figure 2, in which one side is smooth (from the *Gorgonia quercifolia* V), is characteristic of the genus *Gorgonia*, but occurs in the species along with forms much like figure 1. The forms represented in figures