

# EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

---

## HYDROCORALLINÆ—I. to XIV.

*Note.*—The greater part of the figures relating to the soft structures of the Hydrocorallinæ have been prepared so as to represent by means of ideal sections the conclusions as to structure arrived at by prolonged study of long series of preparations. It would have been impossible to give facsimile drawings of all the preparations from the study of which facts of importance were arrived at, and thus to lay the evidence before the reader in a pictorial form. The practice of illustrating scientific papers treating of minute anatomy by figures which profess to be facsimiles of preparations, and in which often all defects due to breakage of sections or obliquity of the line of cutting are reproduced, seems to me much to be deplored, and only tends to create confusion and needlessly increase the number of figures without in any way enhancing the credit which will be given to the results. The drawings can never be so accurate as to stand in the place of preparations; they will always represent to some extent the author's views as to what is to be observed in the preparations. It seems far better that in the modern stage of the science of finer anatomy, drawings should represent the results attained, in as complete and concise a form as can be devised, so as to convey these results to others almost at a glance, if possible.

In the present figures all the histological details, as well as the major features of the structures represented, have been drawn accurately to scale by means of a series of micrometric measurements. The amount of magnification in diameters is given at the bottom of each plate or figure. Since in the majority of the plates ideal sections through complex canal meshworks are represented, the canals composing the meshworks are necessarily shown as cut open in all directions.

### PLATE I.

Drawings of the cœnostea of the several species of Stylasteridæ of which the corresponding soft tissues are described.

Fig. 1. *Sporadopora dichotoma*. Young vigorous specimen which was obtained in the living condition. Natural size.