

cularly in the upper portion of the colony, arise at a very narrow acute angle. The apex of the stem is broken off; near the point of fracture is an elongate branch, 14 cm. long, bearing only one branchlet, 6 cm. long, about the middle. The succeeding twelve centimetres bear eight branches, five of which are on the same side; one springs from the posterior surface, and two are subopposite. Branches up to 10 cm. in length are usually simple, longer ones generally bear one branchlet, which is usually simple. In certain cases a branchlet may be almost as long as the branch from which it springs, in which case it bears a secondary branchlet. The ultimate branchlets are from 4 to 6 cm. long. The whole axis is only very slightly tapering, and there is, practically, no difference between the diameter of a branchlet and of the branch from which it arises. The sclerenchyma is black or dark brown, very slender and fragile, and clothed with a large number of very long slender spines, which materially add to the apparent thickness of the axis. The spines are not disposed in regular spirals but form longitudinal rows, of which six may be recognised from one aspect. The members of a row are separated by an interval fully equal to the length of the spines comprising it. All are subequal in length, but those in one row are sometimes broader at the tip than those of an adjoining row. All are very long, considerably longer than the diameter of the axis. In form they are of the "cylindrical" type. The base is very broad, about half the length, and somewhat compressed laterally. The tapering portion is gently curved upwards.

The form of polyp has been described amongst the generic characters. All are closely packed, with no space for lateral prolongations of their coelentera. About five usually occur to a centimetre. The sagittal tentacles disappear first, and in the older portions of the colony the polyps have only four tentacles, namely those bordering the transverse axis.

In the mode of branching this species probably comes near to *Aphanipathes thyroides* (Pourt.), but differs in the form of polyp and in the spines, which in the latter are irregular in length and more elongate in the region of the polyp. The branching has much in common with *Aphanipathes sarothamnoides*, n. sp., and comes still nearer to *Antipathes mediterranea*, n. sp. In both cases the form of polyp and the shape and arrangement of the spines afford sufficiently distinctive characters.

Habitat.—Off St. Paul's Rocks, in 10 to 80 fathoms; August 28, 1873.

Genus *Parantipathes*, n. gen.

Antipathes (*pars*), Auctt.

Polyps very much elongated in the transverse axis, *i.e.*, in the direction of a branch. In *Parantipathes larix* the transverse diameter is three or four times as great as that in the sagittal direction. The tentacles are slender and elongate, and appear to be arranged in