

## NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

*Virgularia mirabilis*.—The following letter has been received from Mr. W. P. Marshall:—I return you herewith the Eddystone specimen of *Virgularia mirabilis* that you lent to my late son and myself when we were at the Plymouth Biological Station, and am very sorry that the investigation we were engaged upon was not sufficiently worked out before his death for the report to be given upon this specimen.

The point under consideration was the development of the polyps in the early stages of growth of the colony, on which valuable information was given by this Eddystone specimen, which led us to a further examination of the younger specimens that had been obtained in the Oban dredging by the Birmingham Natural History Society.

The general result was as follows. In the *adult* specimens there are in the most matured portion—

8 polyps per leaf (or group).

$7\frac{1}{2}$  polyps per inch pitch of leaves (or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  leaves in each inch length of specimen).

In the Eddystone specimen there are—

3 polyps per leaf in the lower portion.

4   "       "       "       in greater portion of length.

16   "       "       per inch pitch at the lower end.

10   "       "       "       at the upper end.

And the appearance of the specimen suggests that it is at the stage when the fourth polyp begins forming.

In the Oban young specimens there are—

3 polyps per leaf throughout in 3 specimens.

4   "       "       "       "       4 specimens.

These correspond closely with the Eddystone specimen in the number of polyps per leaf, but there is a wide difference as regards the pitch of the leaves, namely (Oban specimens)—

56 to 96 pitch with 3 polyps per leaf.

64 to 75   "       "       4   "       "

The *adult Oban* specimens have a general pitch of about 48 at the lower end, and the pitch 16 at the lower end of the Eddystone young specimen is so exceptional as to suggest another species or variety.

The English Channel is not a recorded habitat for *Virgularia* so far as we know, except for this Eddystone specimen and a smaller fragment obtained off Falmouth in a former dredging excursion of the Birmingham Society in 1879.

*Coryphella smaragdina*.—On Friday, May 11th, a small Eolid was dredged near the Asia buoy. On subsequent examination it proved to be *Coryphella smaragdina*, A. & H. Alder and Hancock described the species from a single specimen found at Whitley, in Northumberland. It is also found in the Mediterranean. It is, therefore, curious that the species has hitherto never been found at Plymouth. The body of the specimen is about half an inch long and pure white in colour, the tentacles are equal in length, and the anterior angles of the foot are produced out into two tentacular-like processes. The branchiæ are disposed in five transverse bands, and are a vivid green in colour. Though the specimen has been nearly a fortnight in spirit the green is as bright as when the animal was alive. Alder and Hancock in their description of the species mention that they found it on the common *Fucus vesiculosus*. They go on to say that "this position was most likely accidental; at least, it must not be taken as a proof that this species is less carnivorous than its congeners." The Plymouth specimen was found crawling on a stone amongst a mass of Hydroids, so that Alder and Hancock's surmise is fully borne out.—J. C. SUMNER.