more than we yet do of the extension both in time and space of the fauna of deep water before we can come to any certain conclusion on these questions.

Dredging across the entrance of the Strait of Gibraltar in 477, 651, and 554 fathoms, Stations 31, 32, and 33, with a bottom temperature of 10°·3, 10°·1, and 10°·0 respectively, many remarkable forms were dredged, including a very elegant sponge, apparently allied to, if not identical with, Oscar Schmidt's, *Caminus vulcani*, and some beautiful forms of the Corallio-spongiæ, which will be noticed in a future chapter. Station No. 31 yielded a sponge form which recalled the branching heather-like *Cladorhiza* of the cold area off Færoe. *Chondrocladia virgata* (Fig. 36) is a graceful branching organism from twenty to forty centimetres in height. A branching root of a cartilaginous consistence, formed of densely packed sheaves of needle-shaped spicules bound together by a structureless organic cement, attaches the sponge to some foreign body, and supports it in an upright position; and the same structure is continued as a solid axis into the main stem and the branches. The axis is made up of a set of very definite strands like the strands of a rope, arranged spirally, so as to present at first sight a strong resemblance to the whisp of *Hyalonema*; but the strands are opaque, and break up under the point of a knife; and under the microscope they are found to consist of minute needle-like spicules closely felted together. The soft sponge substance spreads over the surface of the axis and rises into long curving conical processes, towards the end of which there is a dark greenish oval mass of granular sponge matter, and the outline of the