

parts of different animals. It was therefore quite possible that the whole thing might be an imposition: that some beautiful spicules separated from an unknown organism had been twisted into a whisp by the Japanese, and then manipulated so as to have their fibres naturally bound together by the sponges and zoophytes which are doubtless rapidly developed in the Mongolian rock-pools. Ehrenberg, when he examined *Hyalonema*, took this view. He at once recognized the silicious strands as the spicules of a sponge quite independent of the zoophyte with which they were encrusted; but he suggested that these might have been artificially combined into the spiral coil and placed under artificial circumstances favourable to the growth of a sponge of a different species round their base. The condition in which many specimens reach Europe is certainly calculated to throw some doubt on their genuineness. It seems that the bundles of spicules made up in various ways, are largely sold as ornaments in China and Japan. The coils of spicules are often stuck upright with their upper ends in circular holes in stones. Mr. Huxley exhibited a few years ago at the Linnæan Society a beautiful specimen of this kind now in the British Museum:—a stone has been bored, probably by a colony of boring molluscs, and a whole colony of *Hyalonemas*, old and young, are apparently growing out of the burrows, the larger individuals more than a foot in length, and the young ones down to an inch or so, like tiny camel's-hair pencils. All these are encrusted by the usual zoophyte, which also extends here and there over the stone (glued on probably), but there is no trace