found that the number for sale was unlimited, the prices of good specimens fell from four or five pounds to ten shillings or less; and "Venus's flower-basket" was often to be seen under a glass shade in a drawing-room, whose owner had little idea of its close relation to his familiar bath companion.

It seems that *Euplectella* is very abundant in some spots in deep water among the Philippine Islands, and particularly near the island of Zebu. It lives partially buried in mud, which is so soft and loose as not to crush it, nor to impede in any way the assumption of its elegant form—that of a horn or a graceful bouquet-holder—and it is supported in its position and prevented from sinking by its fringe-like root of glassy spicules. The natives get it by dragging weighted bars of wood, to which fish-hooks are attached, over the bottom. The sponges are pulled out of the mud by the hooks; many of them are torn and injured, but they are in sufficient numbers to give an ample supply of perfect specimens. The soft animal-matter is then removed in some way, and the skeleton is cleaned and bleached.

Until within the last few months, no examples of *Euplectella* were known with the soft parts preserved; but I understand that lately spirit specimens have been received at the British Museum; and the late Professor Max Schultze, of Bonn, stated at a meeting of the Niederrheinische Gesellschaft, on the 3d of March last, that a fine series had been placed in his hands by Drs. Gutschow and Heuthe, of the German ship-of-war *Hertha*. As might have been anticipated in fresh specimens, the crystal frame-work is covered and entirely masked by a layer of gray-brown gelatinous matter, "sarcode," as it is technically called, which Professor Schultze describes as being very thin, and loaded with granules, pigment masses, grains of sand, and the shells of foraminifera. Even in this slimy covering, however, there is not absent the element of beauty, for a multitude of minute siliceous spicules which pervade it everywhere, and whose function seems to be to bind its particles together and