

ism, probably an Alga; in which latter case the coccoliths and rhabdoliths might be regarded as representing in position and function the "amphidisci" on the surface of the gemmules of *Spongilla*, or the spiny facets on the zygospores of many of the Desmideæ. There are many forms of coccoliths and rhabdoliths, and many of these are so distinct that they evidently indicate different species. Mr. Murray believes, however, that only one form is met with on one sphere; and that, in order to produce the numerous forms figured by Haeckel and Oscar Schmidt, all of which, and many additional varieties, he has observed, the spheres must vary in age and development, or in kind. Their

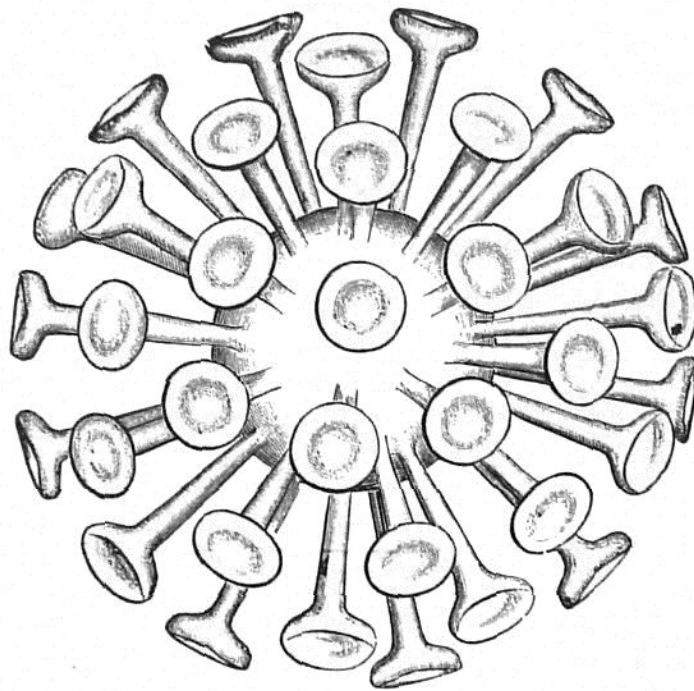


FIG. 50.—A "Rhabdosphere." From the surface. Two thousand times the natural size.

constant presence in the surface-net, in surface water drawn in a bucket, and in the stomachs of surface animals, sufficiently proves that, like the ooze-forming foraminifera, the coccoliths and rhabdoliths, which enter so largely into the composition of the recent deep-sea calcareous formations, live on the surface and at intermediate depths, and sink to the bottom after death. Coccospheres and rhabdospheres have a very wide, but not an unlimited, distribution. From the Cape of Good Hope they