

there can be no doubt that at depths which may be regarded as of comparatively easy access, say a little above 2000 fathoms, the fauna is sufficiently varied. The table on pages 36 and 37, taken from the "Station-book" gives the number of occurrences of representatives of the principal groups of marine animals at the fifty-two stations at which we dredged or trawled successfully at depths greater than 2000 fathoms during the voyage. All the groups marked with a cross were represented, having been observed and noted when the trawl or dredge came up; it is very probable that when the detailed lists are completed we shall find that many, particularly of the smaller forms, have been omitted. The occurrence of fishes, of cephalopods, and of decapod crustaceans must be taken with a reservation, as it was not always possible to determine whether they were taken on the bottom, or above it during the hauling in of the net.

The abyssal fauna would seem, however, to attain its fullest development in a zone of depth between 600, and 1000 or 1200 fathoms; between these depths where the nature of the material of the bottom is suitable, there is the greatest abundance of Hexactinellid Sponges, of the characteristic deep-sea Aleyonarians, of Stalked Crinoids and Sea-urchins allied to *Asthenosoma* and *Salenia*, of the Elpidida among the Holothuroidea, and of other special types. From 1200 or 1500 fathoms downwards, the fauna, although becoming apparently more scanty, maintains much the same character; and it seems to bear to the richer band at its upper limit somewhat the same relation as to derivation and mixing, which the fauna of the *infra-median* zone of Forbes at 60 to 100 fathoms bears to the *median* zone.

It would appear that round all coasts, except, perhaps, those within or bordering upon the Arctic and Antarctic regions, at a depth of from 100 to 200 fathoms the extension

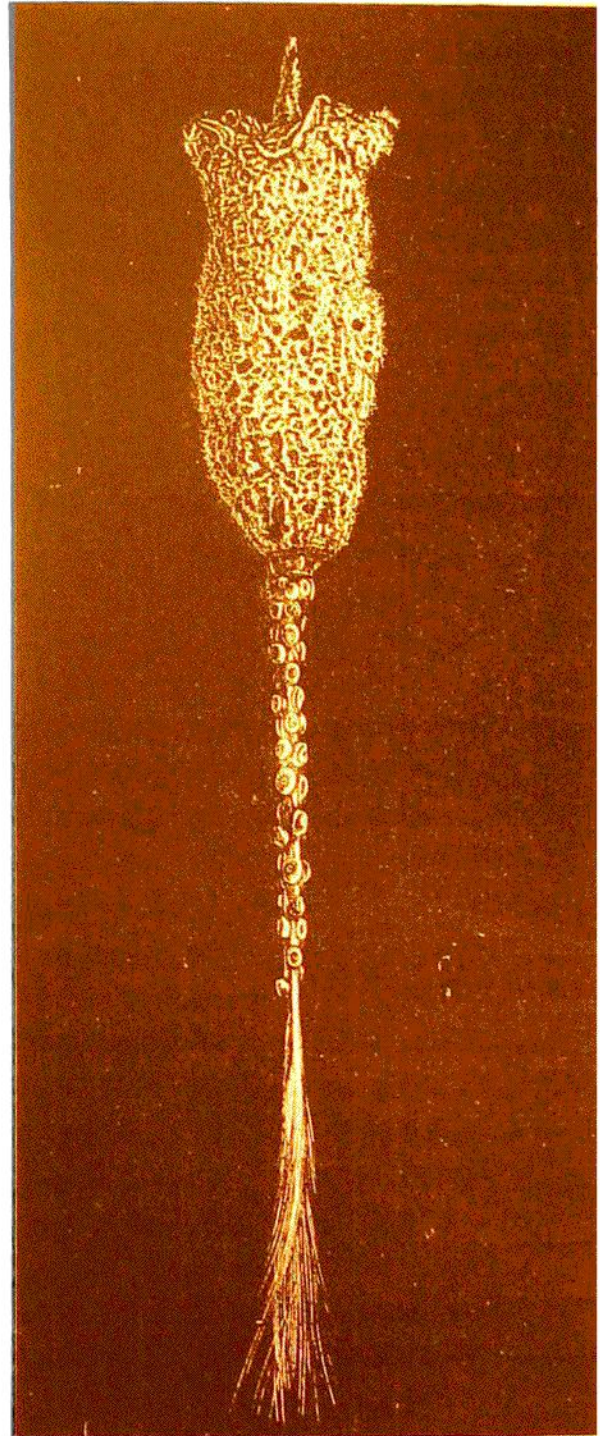


FIG. 15.—*Uanlonema sieboldi*, Gray. A Hexactinellid Sponge (much reduced).