

extensions. There is only one common Foraminifer with which it is at all likely to be confounded, namely, *Webbina clavata*, J. and P., but the primordial chamber in that species is a simple, adherent, tent-like, shelly dome, and the tube a semi-cylindrical covering—neither chamber nor tube having any floor proper to itself.

Messrs. Nicholson and Etheridge, in their valuable Monograph of the Silurian Fossils of Girvan in Ayrshire, fasc. 1, p. 23, pl. ix. fig. 24, have described, under the provisional name *Girvanella*, a tubular organism occurring abundantly in little masses in the "Craighead Limestone," with the following generic characters:—"Microscopic tubuli with arenaceous or calcareous (?) walls, flexuous or contorted, circular in section, forming loosely compacted masses. The tubes apparently simple cylinders, without perforations in their sides, and destitute of internal partitions or other structures of similar kind." This description applies in every particular to such specimens of *Hyperammia vagans* as are represented in figs. 7 and 8; and the specific characters which follow agree equally well, except in a single point, namely, that the diameter of the tubes in *Girvanella* is from  $\frac{1}{700}$ th to  $\frac{1}{600}$ th of an inch, whereas those of the present species range from  $\frac{1}{600}$ th to  $\frac{1}{120}$ th of an inch. Some latitude must be allowed in estimating the characters of a minute fossil belonging to so very remote an age, but it seems scarcely worth while to recognise these trifling differences as a basis of generic distinction.

*Hyperammia vagans* is a cosmopolitan species. It is found as far north as Spitzbergen and as far south as Kerguelen Island, and occurs in all the great ocean basins. Specimens dredged by the Rev. A. M. Norman, off Oban, on the west coast of Scotland, give it a place in the British fauna. Its bathymetric range is correspondingly wide—from 15 or 20 fathoms in the Arctic Sea, to 2900 fathoms in the North and South Pacific.

Of the probability of its existence as a palæozoic fossil nothing more need be said. Dr. R. Haeusler has been good enough to send me a number of specimens, wanting in nothing but colour, from beds of Jurassic age in the Canton Aargau, Switzerland.

*Hyperammia ramosa*, H. B. Brady (Pl. XXIII. figs. 15-19).

*Hyperammia ramosa*, Brady, 1879, Quart. Journ. Micr. Sci., vol. xix. N. S., p. 33. pl. iii. figs. 14, 15.

Test free; consisting of a subglobular primordial chamber with a tubular extension. Tubular portion branched; relatively wide at its commencement, but narrowing as it becomes divided, the later branches of tolerably even diameter. Texture generally loosely arenaceous; exterior rough, often beset with sponge-spicules. Length indefinite.

This organism never attains the dimensions of the allied *Hyperammia friabilis* or *Hyperammia subnodosa*. The texture of the test is coarse; the surface rough, and usually, though by no means invariably, hispid, owing to the number of adherent, or