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History.—In 1841 a report was given by Stutchbury¹ on a sponge which was procured at Barbados, one of the Antilles, and which exhibited a siliceous skeleton composed of fine tubes with netted walls. The following diagnosis was proposed:—"Sponge fixed, rigid, siliceous; incurrent canals uniform in size; excurrent canals large, forming deep sinuosities on the outer surface, radiating from the root to the outer circumference." Stutchbury named it Dactylocalyx pumiceus.

Probably an illustrated notice which has passed from Rozier's Journal de Physique <sup>2</sup> into Lichtenberg's Magazine <sup>3</sup> also refers to the same genus. For a knowledge of this publication, which is chiefly of interest on account of the date of its publication, I have to thank Professor Marshall of Leipzig, who has sent me a copy of the text and of the figures. The title in Lichtenberg's Magazine <sup>4</sup> is in the following words:—"Nachricht von einem seltenen Polypengebäude." "The structure of the polype in the first copperplate shows a peculiar character and form not hitherto met with in any collection of the products of the sea. It is dazzling white, resembles a net, and the magnifying glass reveals a number of scattered chambers which are perforated in all directions; it is therefore unusually light, and is very readily pulverised. Its elegant form approaches very near to that of the *Coupe de Neptune*; but the resemblance is not confirmed when the two polype forms are placed side by side. It is difficult to refer this structure to its proper class. When kept under water it does not become larger, nor does it acquire any flexibility. With nitric acid it does not effervesce. When a piece of it is calcined

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., vol. ix. p. 86; Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 1, vol. ix. p. 504.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> October 1780.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Magazin für das Neueste aus der Physik und Naturgeschichte, Bd. i. pp. 68, 69, Gotha, 1781.

<sup>4</sup> Loc. cit., p. 68.