NOMENCLATURE AND TECHNICAL EXPRESSIONS.

Dermal membrane.—The external limiting membrane, through the pores of which the water enters the body.

Dermal pores.—The large and small pores which perforate the dermal membrane.

Subdermal trabeculæ.—The delicate strands of tissue which form an irregular framework extending between the dermal membrane and the chamber layer.

Subdermal trabecular space.—The space between the dermal membrane and the chamber layer, and partly traversed by the subdermal trabecular framework.

Chamber layer.—The more or less folded layer of adjacent ciliated chambers.

Connecting membrane.—The continuation of the chamber wall, stretched between the terminal openings of the chambers.

Chamber pores.—The small round apertures in the chamber wall.

Gastral membrane.—The internal limiting membrane directly surrounding the gastral space.

Gastral pores.—The pores of very varied size which perforate the gastral membrane.

Subgastral trabeculæ.—The delicate strands of tissue which are united into an irregular framework, extending between the chamber layer and the gastral membrane, and also frequently into the efferent canals.

Subgastral trabecular space.—The space between the chamber layer and the gastral membrane, which is partly traversed by the subgastral trabecular framework.

Terminal sieve-plate.—A sieve-like perforated plate, which extends over the broad terminal opening of many tubular or cup-shaped Hexactinellida.

Parietal gaps.—Apertures over the whole external wall of the Sponge, through which the space within communicates directly with the surrounding medium.

Membrane of the parietal gaps.—An iris-like, circular membrane stretched across the gaps, with circular bands of muscular fibres, by means of which the orifice may be narrowed or entirely shut.

Covering plate.—A porous plate which surrounds like a capsule the body of some forms with tubular framework, and which is united only to the terminal oscular opening of the tube.

Spiculum.—Every independent and originally isolated skeletal element.

Principal ray.—The primary ray which springs directly from the central nodal point of a spicule.

Terminal ray.—The branch or secondary ray springing from the outer end of a principal.

Hexact, pentact, tetract, triact, diact, monact.—Nouns and adjectives used to designate the spicules according to the number of their principal rays.