

number of branches, which repeat in all respects the primary stems with their pinnæ. In a magnificent specimen belonging to Mr. Busk, which was obtained in the Persian Gulf and attains a height of nearly a foot, the trophosome consists of numerous stems which spring in a close cluster from a plexus of tubular fibres. Soon after their origin almost all these stems appear to give off a great number of branches, and the specimen, instead of consisting essentially of a cluster of undivided stems with pinnately disposed ramuli, appears to form a profusely branched colony. The apparent branches, however, are in reality so many separate colonies which had attached themselves to the primary stems, which they grasp by their hydrorhizal tubules (Pl. XXXIX. fig. 10).

An entirely similar condition occurs in the Challenger specimens, both in those from the Philippine Islands and in those dredged off Bahia, none of which, however, possess a height of more than five inches, and in which the associated stems are but few. Among the Hydroids collected by the "Rattlesnake" is also a specimen of *Idia pristis* from the Australian Seas. Like the Challenger specimens it is of small size, and the separate colonies associated with it in the form of branches are but few.

Mr. Hincks lately sent me a specimen of *Idia pristis* which he had identified in a collection of Hydroids brought home from the Mergui Archipelago. The specimen, which is abundantly supplied with gonangia, presents a pseudo-ramification similar in all respects to that of the other examples here noticed.