

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on PHORONIS BUSKII,¹ n. sp., dredged during the Voyage of H.M.S. Challenger, 1873-76. By Professor W. C. M'INTOSH, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., etc., University of St. Andrews.

INTRODUCTION.

THE interest connected with this remarkable genus warrants a few general remarks on the history of the subject—in order to bring the leading features in view before proceeding to consider the structure of the comparatively large examples procured by the Challenger.

The genus *Phoronis*² was first introduced by that acute and patient naturalist, Dr. Strethill Wright,³ of Edinburgh, one of the many instances of the brotherhood that has always existed between biological science and medicine.⁴ He had received some specimens of *Caryophyllia* from Ilfracombe, and found this new type (*Phoronis*) in its membranous tube deeply buried in the stone to which the coral was attached. He does not indicate the nature of the stone, but in all probability it was calcareous. This species, which he termed *Phoronis hippocrepeia*, was about 6-10ths of an inch in length by 1-100th of an inch in diameter, and possessed a crown of sixty simple ciliated tentacles, united by a web at the base. Shortly afterwards he found an allied species (perhaps immature) with eighteen tentacles—forming an ovoid crown, but without a web at the base, on an oyster-shell (which the tubes penetrated) dredged

¹ In remembrance of the late George Busk, F.R.S., V.P.L.S., etc., who more than once gave his experienced advice to students of *Phoronis* in connection with its structure and relationships.

² One of the Egyptian divinities, wife of Osiris, and the mother of Horus.

³ *Edin. New Phil. Journ.*, N.S., vol. iv. p. 313, pl. vii., 1856.

⁴ *Vide* Introductory Lecture by Professor Allman, *Edin. Med. Journ.*, vol. i. p. 575, 1855.