ANATOMICAL DESCRIPTION.

Class POLYZOA, J. V. Thompson.

Section VERMIFORMIA, E. R. Lankester.

Genus *Phoronis*, Strethill Wright.

Phoronis buskii, M'Intosh.

Phoronis sp., M'Intosh, Proc. Roy. Soc., Edin., vol. xi. pp. 211–217, May 1881.

Amongst the peculiar forms confounded with the Annelida was a large *Phoronis* (Pl. I. fig. 1), which in outline somewhat resembled an example of the Sabellidæ or Eriographididæ. The size of this species, indeed, had apparently led to its being overlooked, for Dr. R. von Willemoes-Suhm observes: "We have been particularly looking out for *Phoronis*, but have never been able to find it, and feel now nearly sure that it does not inhabit, as a rule, the great depths."[1] At the request of the late Sir Wyville Thomson I undertook its description, and a preliminary account appeared in 1881. The specimens were dredged at Station 212, south of the Philippine Islands, on the 30th January 1875, lat. 6° 54′ N., long. 122° 18′ E., at a depth varying from ten to twenty fathoms, on a sandy bottom. The surface temperature was 83°.

Distribution.—Though the genus was thus rarely met with in the Expedition of H.M.S. Challenger, there is no special reason why it should be so uncommon. In our own country, for instance, since its discovery by Dr. Strethill Wright simultaneously at Tenby and in the Firth of Forth, it has been found by Professor Kölliker at Millport in Cumbrae, by Dr. Dyster again at Tenby, and by E. Claparède in the Clyde district. The larval stages (Actinotrocha) have frequently been met with off the Firth of Forth,[2] at the mouth of the Mersey, and other parts.

Tube.

The species forms a somewhat tough hyaline and often semi-translucent tube (evidently a secretion of the glandular hypoderm) for itself in the sand—as in other forms having a similar habitat. In section this tube is finely and concentrically striated,—layer upon layer of the hypodermic secretion entering into its composition. Moreover, even the most translucent portions show many minute sponge-spicules, diatoms, fragments of silex or accumulations of coarser sand-grains—all more or less

[1] *Proc. Roy. Soc.*, vol. xxiv. p. 573, March 16, 1876.
[2] See *Nature*, vol. xxxiv. pp. 361, 387, 439, and 468, 1886.