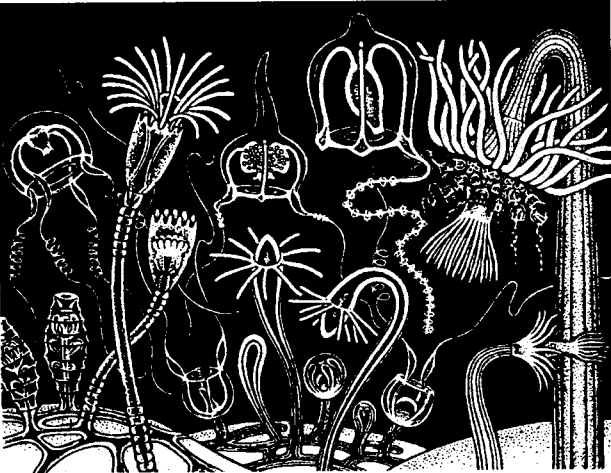


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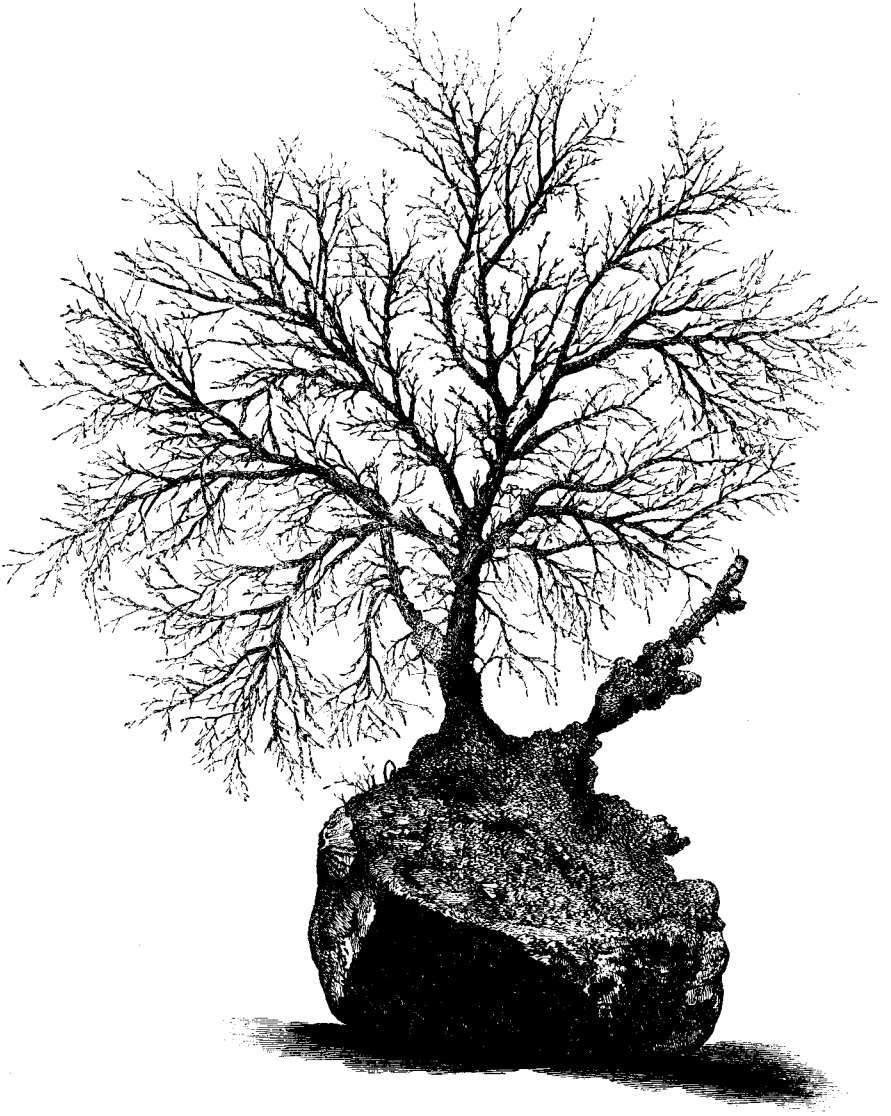
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BRITISH HYDROID ZOOPHYTES.

VOL. I.



Eudendrium rameum, Pallas.

A
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
BRITISH HYDROID ZOOPHYTES.

BY
THOMAS HINCKS, B.A.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.—TEXT.

LONDON:
JOHN VAN VOORST, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCLXVIII.

“THAT which we foolishly call vastness is, rightly considered, not more wonderful, not more impressive, than that which we insolently call littleness.”—RUSKIN.

P R E F A C E.

It is not necessary that I should enter into any explanation of the causes that have delayed the publication of the present work, which was designed and announced several years since; but I should be ungrateful if I did not acknowledge the enduring patience of the Publisher under trials of no ordinary kind.

The appearance of this work cannot certainly be accounted premature. Twenty-one years have elapsed since the second edition of Dr. Johnston's 'History of British Zoophytes' was published; and during that period the whole aspect of his favourite science has changed. His classification of the Hydroida has long been in great part obsolete, while the number of known species has been almost trebled since he wrote. Like his predecessor, Ellis, he rendered in his day invaluable service to Zoophytology, and gave an impulse to the study of it, of which we are now reaping the fruits. It should be added that there is a charm in his work, which does not become obsolete with its science; it

PREFACE.

will always rank, with the 'Corallines' of Ellis, amongst the classics of natural-history literature. As a manual for the use of the student, however, it has long ceased to be of value; nor is there any work in existence that contains a complete account of the British Hydroida. The place therefore is vacant, which the present work aspires to fill. I have endeavoured to make it a full and faithful exposition of our present knowledge, and to do for the students of this day what Johnston's 'History' accomplished for those of his own generation. It is certainly time that the remarkable results attained since he wrote, and now widely scattered, should be presented in a connected form and made available for general use, and that the difficulties should be removed which interfere with the cultivation of one of the most delightful branches of Natural History.

This Preface might have been very brief, had not the kindness of many friends and fellow workers laid me under heavy obligations, which it is a duty and a pleasure to acknowledge; without such cooperation, indeed, I could not have accomplished my work. Foremost amongst those to whom I have been indebted for help, it is right that I should place my lamented friend the late Mr. Alder, one of the ablest of British naturalists, and one of the most amiable and upright of men. In the course of a long correspondence, extending over many years, and relating chiefly to our favourite studies, I have had the opportunity of profiting largely by his extensive knowledge,

PREFACE.

accurate observation, and sound judgment. During the preparation of this work I have had the benefit of his valuable opinion in many cases of difficulty, and have often been materially assisted by his cautious wisdom and remarkable skill in the discrimination of species. His collection was freely placed at my service; and many of the figures with which this work is enriched are engraved from his admirable drawings.

To Mr. Busk I am under peculiar obligations for much valuable counsel and practical aid, and especially for his kindness in placing at my disposal his large and interesting collection of foreign Hydroïda and an extensive series of drawings.

To my friend Prof. Allman I owe my warmest thanks for the readiness with which, out of his large stores of knowledge, he has communicated information that I happened to need, or favoured me with his views on doubtful points. I am also indebted to him for drawings of some of the species which he has discovered. The reader of this work will understand how much I, in common with all zoophytologists, owe to his writings.

Dr. Strethill Wright has rendered me most important service by permitting me to reproduce the figures which illustrate his valuable papers, and by freely communicating to me his views on some of the most interesting questions in zoophytology.

To the Rev. A. M. Norman I am indebted for the use of the late Mr. Barlee's collection of Hydroïda, including many Shetland acquisitions, and for the

PREFACE.

opportunity of examining specimens obtained by himself in the course of his extended dredgings.

Mr. J. Gwyn Jeffreys has kindly supplied me with a quantity of zoophytes procured during one of his famous Shetland cruises, amongst which were one or two most beautiful species new to science.

Mr. C. W. Peach, who was a valued contributor to Dr. Johnston's 'History,' and who is an enthusiastic worker still, has come to my assistance with an ample list of habitats, and has also contributed some interesting specimens.

My acknowledgments are further due to Professor Wyville Thomson for some exquisite drawings which have been engraved for this work; to Dr. Collingwood for a list of the zoophytes found in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, and notes on some of the species; to my friend Mr. E. W. H. Holdsworth for his interesting observations on *Cladonema*; to Mr. George Hodge for the use of figures and the communication of specimens; to Mr. Leipner for some very skilfully mounted specimens of Campanularian and other zoophytes; and to Mr. G. S. Brady for Hydroida obtained in Connemara.

I have also to thank Professor Sars and Professor Van Beneden for their great courtesy and kindness in forwarding to me copies of their publications.

In the preparation of the plates I have had the zealous cooperation of Mr. Tuffen West, who has spared no pains in the execution of the engravings, and whose practical acquaintance with the subjects delineated,

PREFACE.

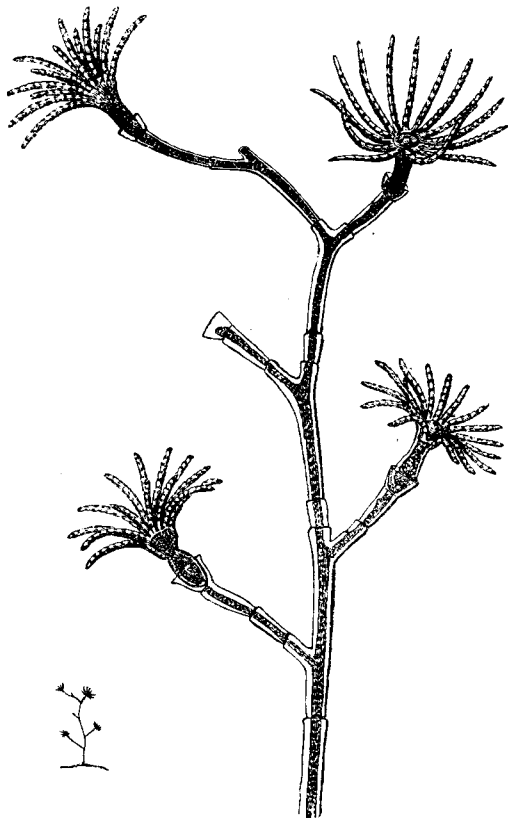
combined with his well-known artistic skill, has enabled him to produce a most satisfactory result.

One point in the work itself requires a word of explanation. It has been impossible, from the very nature of the objects treated of, to make the specific descriptions as brief as I could have desired. I have therefore printed in *Italics* the leading and distinctive characters, so that the peculiarities which separate each species from others may be recognized at a glance.

I trust that this work may facilitate the study of one of the most charming branches of Natural History, and so tend in its degree to foster a taste which, I can testify from experience, is an unfailing source of delight, and affords the most welcome relief and refreshment amidst the cares and harder duties of life.

Great Malvern,
November 20th, 1868.

T. H.



Plumularia halecioides (young).

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