SPINES OR SPICULA OF SPONGES (Lign. 58. fig. 5.).—We have already alluded to the spicula which enter into the structure of many of these zoophytes. They are hollow, and of various shapes; some are simple acicular spines; others stellate or radiate, and tri-radiate; and some have the form of a trident; a few of these bodies are figured, Lign. 58, fig. 5.

As Actiniæ (sea-anemones), and Alcyonia, also possess spicula, it is possible that some of the fossil spines may have been derived from those animals. The larger spines may be discovered with a lens of moderate power, or even by the unassisted eye; but all will repay a microscopical examination, and the minutest can only thus be detected.

SIPHONIA (Lign. 56.).—Structure porous; upper part bulbiform, having a central cavity studded with pores regularly disposed, and supported on a stem composed of parallel longitudinal tubes or vessels; the base fixed; often by radicle processes.

This genus comprises a very numerous group of fossil Sponges, which possess regular tubes or channels, that permeate the spongeous mass, and communicate by openings into a central cavity above. Their forms, although variable, are more definite than the simple Sponges, and altogether their organization appears to be more advanced.

One of the most elegant and well-known species is the Siphonia Websteri, of the Shanklin Sand

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