

NEW FRESH WATER SPONGES FROM NOVA SCOTIA.

The following description of a new Nova Scotia Fresh water sponge is given by H. J. Carter, F. R. S., etc., of England in the January number of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' London. Referring to a specimen sent him by Principal MacKay of Pictou Academy, he says, "until just now that I have had occasion to examine it more particularly, I thought it had been *Spongilla fragilis*, var. *segregata*. However, it turns out to be very different; and being *new*, I herewith append its description under the name of

SPONGILLA MACKAYI

Sessile, spreading, charged with little subglobular bodies like large statoblasts, about 1-12th inch, skeletal spicule acerate, slightly curved and sharp-pointed; more or less thickly spined, averaging 50 by 2 1-2—6000ths inch in its greatest diameters; accompanied abundantly by a minute birotulate flesh-spicule precisely like that of *Meyenia Everetti* that is 3 to 4-6000ths inch long, with very thin smooth shaft about four times longer than the diameter of the rotule which is 1-6000ths inch, toothed, with the teeth recurved. Statoblast globular, consisting of a thick chitinous coat filled with the usual germinal matter, from which is very slightly prolonged an everted trumpet-shaped aperture; bearing slight traces externally of microcell-structure and the polygonal tissue; making one of twenty such which are arranged as to form a subglobular body of the size mentioned; situated around a central cavity with their apertures inwards; the whole supported by statoblast spicules of various sizes, which, intercrossing each other, form a nest-like globular capsule in which the outer parts of the statoblast are fixed and covered; apparently (for the specimen is dry) deficient at one point, which leads to the central cavity. Statoblast-spicules acerate, sharp-pointed, like the skeletal spicules, but becoming much shorter and more coarsely spined as they approach the chitinous coats of the statoblasts, where they may be reduced to at least 27-6000ths inch in length, although often increased to 4-6000ths inch in thickness, and their spines, which are very irregular in size and situation, often as long as the spicule is broad. Size of specimen about 1-6th inch high and 2 inches in horizontal diameter.

Hab. Fresh water.

Loc. Mackay's Lake, Pictou Co., Nova Scotia.