

risers above the water, she exudes from the genital opening a drop of a gummy gelatinous substance, which she then presses against the object that has been chosen to support the egg. This sticky mass is the base of the egg-stalk, and hardening very soon, fastens the egg in place before it has left the body. The insect now walks away from the stalk, thus free-

ing herself from the egg. This egg, as may be seen from the drawing (Fig. 8), is long and spindle-shaped, with the micropile on the extreme end away from the point of attachment. The length of the egg is about two millimetres, a little more than one-fifth the total length of the insect apart from the antennae, and about one-half the length of the abdomen. I was unable to determine how many eggs each female lays, for *Hydrometra* is not an easy insect to raise in confinement, being easily drowned in aquaria, and then the eggs are very hard to find where there is anything like an approach to natural conditions. The number cannot be very great, however, for the size of the egg is such that the abdomen could hardly contain more than four or five at the most. Each egg is attached to its support at right angles to the surface, but is frequently found hanging down as the result of some accident.

The interior egg sac is protected by a horny exterior coating decorated with longitudinal ribs or flutings, the surfaces of which are granulated and marked by a rather indistinct hexagonal pattern; in the drawing this pattern has been exaggerated in order to call attention to its existence, for it is not at first apparent, and indeed does not appear to be present in some cases. Around the micropile end this protective coating takes the form of a series of plates, while around the stalk it extends in an enclosing sheath of a delicate tracery of network, through which can be seen the darker coloured supporting stalk. Mounted in Canada balsam this covering becomes more or less transparent, showing the oval pod-shape of the egg proper, with its slender stalk on one end and the micropile on the other.

Out of this egg there emerges, seventeen days after laying, the soft-bodied, light green nymph which has, as do all Hemiptera, the general characters of the adult. The nymph in this case



FIG. 8.—Egg of
Hydrometra.