WEST COAST CORALS

into a powder between a strong finger and thumb. It would not be surprising to hear of specimens several feet in height. The largest I have seen was given to the Manchester museum by Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, and is 16 by 12 inches in expanse, but it is certain that this specimen is only part of a much larger Friable corat colony. The generic name of this coral is *Paragorgia* H. Milne-Edwards 1857, of the family Briareidæ. Having made a careful eomparison of a specimen from off Kodiak island, Gulf of Alaska, with one of P. arborea (Lint.) from the coast of Norway, I have no hesitation in referring the Alaskan form to the Norwegian type (Hiekson, P. Zool. Soc. 1915, p. 548).

4. Primnoa willeyi Hickson (1915, op. cit. p. 551). There Primnoldae are two species of flexible corals of the family Primnoidæ, characterised by the presence of non-retractile polyps protected by an armature of overlapping scales. In one of them (P. willeyi) the colony branches profusely and irregularly. The polyps are about five mm. in length, irregularly distributed on the branches, and they bend downwards towards the base of the eolony. There are only two other species of this genus, namely, P. reseda Pallas, from the north Atlantic, and P. pacifica Kinoshita, from the eoast distribution of Japan. This genus therefore, like Paragorgia, is circumpolar. The dried corallum of P. willey has been seen exposed for sale in a shop window at Prince Rupert, but the only one known officially was obtained in 100 fathoms off Moresby island: the eolony, of which only fragments were preserved, having when fresh a scarlet colour, an expanse of four feet, and diameter at the base of the stem of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

5. Caligorgia fraseri Hickson. In this Primnoid the branches are in one plane and not so profuse. The polyps are about one mm. in length and are arranged in closely set whorls of 11 or 12, dimin-Polyps in whorls ishing to five or six near the ends; all the polyps are bent upwards towards the apex of the branch. It is frequently brought up by the halibut lines from 50 to 100 fathoms in the gulf of Alaska; it has a pink colour when fresh. The genus Caligorgia has a wide distribution in tropical seas; in the Paeifie ocean it extends as far north as the Aleutian islands, but according to Versluys (Primnoidæ of the Siboga Expedition, 1906), it has not been found in the north Atlantic. It may be regarded as a migrant from the south, whilst Primnoa is a migrant from the north.

6. Psammogorgia teres Verrill (Hiekson, 1915, op. cit. p. 554). Plexaurldae This is another flexible eoral, of the family Plexa idæ, candelabrum-shaped, having a persistent pink colour sparsely in one plane and the horny axis is coverent that hick crust of living substance. The polyps can be completely retracted into the erust and in dried specimens are represented by little pits or warts. The only specimen I have seen is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, and the branches about one-fifth inch in diameter.

Order Stelonifera: social aleyonarians.

7. Clavularia moresbii Hiekson (1915, op. cit. p. 546). This Clavularia species is founded upon a colony of polyps $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length, arising from a creeping stolon which spread over the base of the stem of Primnoa willeyi. It will probably be found upon other

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