The Scrutineers then reported the result of the ballot for Council and Officers for the ensuing Session, and declared the following had been elected:—

President.—Robert Callwell, M. R. I. A., V. P. R. G. S. I.

Vice-Presidents.—William Andrews, M. R. I. A., F. R. G. S. I.; Alexander Carte, M. D., F. R. C. S. I., F. L. S., M. R. I. A., F. R. G. S. I.; C. P. Croker, M. D., M. R. I. A., M. B. S. Edin.; R. Palmer Williams, M. R. I. A., F. R. G. S. I.

Council.—H. M. Barton, F. R. G. S. I.; John Barker, M. D., F. R. C. S. I., M. R. I. A., F. R. G. S. I.; E. H. Bennett, M. D., M. C., F. R. C. S. I.; George Dixon, F. R. G. S. I.; A. W. Foot, M. D., L. R. C. S. I.; John Good, F. R. G. S. I.; Rev. Samuel Haughton, M. D., F. T. C. D., F. R. S., V. P. R. G. S. I.; A. H. Jacob, M. D., L. R. C. S. I.; Maziere Johnston, John J. Lalor, Alexander Macalister, L. K. Q. C. P., L. R. C. S. I.; David Moore, Ph.D., F. L. S., M. R. I. A.; Rev. Professor O'Mahony.

Honorary Treasurer.—Arthur Andrews.

Honorary Director of Museum.—W. B. Brownrigg, F. R. G. S. I.

Honorary Secretaries.—Robert M'Donnell, M. D., F. R. C. S. I., F. R. S., M. R. I. A.; William Archer.

On the motion of Dr. A. W. Foot, seconded by Professor E. Perceval Wright, a vote of thanks was proposed to Dr. Moore, ex-President, for his kindness and courtesy in the chair during his year of office as President, and for his watchful interest over the well-being of the Society, which was passed by acclamation.

Dr. Moore briefly returned his best thanks for the honour done him in having been elected President of the Natural History Society of Dublin, an honour which he fully appreciated. He now relinquished the chair to a worthy successor, than whom none stood higher in estimation, and than whom none, he felt sure, had the interest of the Society more at heart.

The Meeting then adjourned to the first Thursday in December.

DECEMBER 6, 1866.

William Andrews, M. R. I. A., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Read the Minutes of the preceding Meeting, which being approved, were signed.

Read the following Paper:—

Notes on the Flora of the Islands of Arran, West of Ireland. By E. Perceval Wright, M. D., F. R. C. S. I., F. L. S., Lecturer on Zoology, Trinity College, Dublin, and on Botany to Dr. Steevens' Hospital Medical School.

The Islands of Arran are situated at the mouth of the Bay of Galway, and extend from N. lat. 53° 0′ to 53° 9′, and from W. long. 9° 31′ to

9° 52′. From the town of Galway, the little harbour of Kilronan is distant about twenty-eight miles. The group consists of three large islands—Inishmore, Inishmaan, and Inisheer—and of several smaller ones, such as the Brannock Islands, to the north-west of Inishmore.

The largest island is about eleven miles distant from the nearest mainland, at Cashla Bay, in the county of Galway; but Inisheer is not much more than five or six miles from the cliffs of Moher, in the county of Clare.

The village of Kilronan, situated on the west side of Killeany Bay, boasts of a sufficiently comfortable hotel.

The islands consist of carboniferous limestone, forming on their south-western sides high frowning headlands, which in some places are arranged in a series of terraces, and in some as high precipitous cliffs. On the north-eastern side of the islands, facing Galway Bay, there will be found a series of coarse shingly beaches, interrupted here and there by several sandy bays. The ground rises on Inishmore, near the Ogvil Fort, to a height of 406 feet; and the cliffs at Corker and Dunængus rise to a height, respectively, of 234 and 279 feet. The highest point of Inishmaan—the middle island—is 275 feet; and the south island, or Inisheer, rises to a height of 202 feet. A vast extent of sand hills covers the eastern side of Killeany Bay, running out towards the north-east as far as Illaunatee, or Straw Island.

A few little streams are to be met with, chiefly in Inishmore; and wells of good water are not unfrequent.

The surface of the larger island rises in a series of broad terraces, the level portions of which present the appearance of a vast number of gigantic tombstones—some very long and narrow, others broad and short. The interspaces between these layers of stone are never more than from an inch to eighteen inches in width; but it is in these interspaces, between these immense blocks of stone, and also on the faces of the terraces, that almost all the plants on the islands are to be found.

Dry stone walls abound everywhere, and are erected chiefly for protection from the winds, which are almost always blowing on these islands. These walls often enclose spaces of but a few yards square, but by their help some small crops are sown and garnered. Potatoes are planted on the bare rock, the tubers being covered over with a basketful of dried seaweed, and then a basketful of earth. In some few places the rock gets by degrees covered over with a thin sod, which, with the help of manure, yields in some seasons a scanty crop of oats or barley, and in other seasons supplies a precarious nourishment of sweet grass to a few sheep brought from the mainland.

The chief employment of the islanders is in the gathering and burning of kelp, and many of them are engaged in the sea fisheries.

A good mountain road runs from Killeany through Kilronan, westward, as far as the ruins of Templebrecan; but collecting on any of the Islands is a matter of some difficulty; for, once off the main road, the abrupt sides of the terraces are often too steep to be climbed, and the constant jumping over wide stone walls becomes particularly trying.

Having spent some pleasant days along the coast at Roundstone investigating the botany of that portion of Connemara, we left the pier of that village in a hooker, belonging to the monastery of Roundstone, about eight o'clock in the morning of the 3rd of August. The wind was blowing very sharply from the north-west, and the moment we left the shelter of the land we encountered its full force. We were speedily in the following predicament—either having to row back in the teeth of the gale, or taking the chance of our frail mast snapping if we sailed away before it. Our men preferred the latter alternative, and with sail half set, and every third or fourth wave washing completely over us, we bore away for Golam Head, and then across the North Sound, arriving in safety, but in a very sorry plight, into the shelter of Killeany Bay, after a run of five hours, and taking up quarters at the "Atlantic Hotel." The well-meaning proprietors of this little tavern did everything in their power to make us as comfortable as possible. Except on stormy days, fish abounded at our table, chiefly John Dorys, and once, during our sojourn of eleven days, a sheep was killed on the island, and we had mutton for dinner.

It would be well for the botanist who thinks of visiting these interesting Islands to bring with him, either from Clifden or Galway, a few creature comforts to supplement the meagre fare of the place; and above all, if he intend to write, or to work with the microscope after sunset, to bring with him a store of good candles. The sufferings that the writer endured while trying to investigate with a half-inch objective some gatherings made near the Holy Well at Kilronan, were indeed great, the only choice of light being between a farthing dip-candle of the worst description—i. e. with the thickest possible wick and the smallest amount of tallow—and a slender cotton thread lying in a saucer of fish oil.

The fresh-water gatherings were examined by my friend Mr. W. Archer, and among them he discovered *Hydrocoleum thermale* (Kütz.), which exhibited a curious modification of the oscillatoriaceous movement common to the group; for the filaments, confined in the common tube, glided up and down past one another—a movement very different from the ordinary vibration or spiral twisting, so characteristic of the group.

A large collection of Diatoms made on this occasion has been examined by another friend, the Rev. E. O'Meara, and he informs me that it is the most interesting that he has ever examined: not only is it very rich in well-known forms, but he believes he has, on an examination of only a small portion of the entire gatherings, discovered many new species, and others, though not new species, yet such as have not been detected hitherto in Great Britain or Ireland.

These diatomaceous gatherings were made for the most part off the forest of algæ that will be found between the strand at Porrermore, in Killeany Bay, and the projecting promontory of shaly rock that juts out into the bay below the village of Killeany. They were found adhering to the fronds of *Desmarestia ligulata, Chordaria flagelliformis,* &c.

The season was too far advanced for many of the characteristic Arran Islands plants; still a good number of species were met with.

Adopting the nomenclature of that important contribution to Irish botany, the "Cybele Hibernica" of Dr. Moore and Mr. More, the following list contains the names of the species met with :—

Ranunculus tricophyllus (Chaix), in some quantity near Bungowla, Inishmore.
R. heterophyllus (Sibth.), R. aquaticus, var. Bentham.
R. hederaceus (Linn.) R. aquaticus, var. Bentham.
R. lingua (Linn.), on the shore of the small Lough Atalia. Inishmore.
R. acris (Linn.)
R. repens (Linn.)
R. bulbosus (Linn.)
Aquilegia vulgaris (Linn.), growing apparently quite wild in several places on the large island.
Quite a colony of this species was found on the north-west side of the island near Sheskra.
Papaver dubium (Linn.), on cultivated land in the vicinity of the villages.
Fumaria officinalis (Linn.)
[Matthiola sinuata (R. Br.) This species is mentioned in the "Flora Hibernica" as taken on Straw Island, to the east of Killeany Bay. I looked for it, but did not succeed in finding any trace of it.]
Nasturtium officinale (R. Br.)
Arabis hirsuta (R. Br.), not uncommon on Inishmore.
A. ciliata (R. Br.), Inishmore.
Sisymbrium officinale (Scop.)
Cochlearia officinalis (Linn.)
Thlaspi arvense (Linn.)
Senebiera coronopus (Poiret). This species is not met with commonly in the islands, but it grows in great profusion all about the villages of Kilronan and Killeany, and appears to me to have been introduced with the turf which the inhabitants import from the Connemara district.
Cakile maritima (Scop.)
Crambe maritima (Linn.), Trawmore, Inishmore.
Raphanus maritimus (Sm.), R. raphanistrum (Linn.), var. Bentham. Inishmore.
Reseda luteola (Linn.)
Helianthemum canum (Dun.)
Viola sylvatica (Fries).
Polygala vulgaris (Linn.)
Silene maritima (With.), S. inflata (Sm.), var. Bentham, growing in great abundance on the rocky shores of all the islands.
Sagina procumbens (Linn.)
S. maritima (Don.)
S. subulata (Wimm.). I gathered specimens of this species near Kilronan. In the "Cybele Hibernica" this name is misspelt Kilmoran.

S. nodosa (E. Meyer).
Alsine verna (Jacq.)
Stellaria media (Linn.)
Cerastium glomeratum (Thuil.), C. vulgatum (Sm.), C. arvense (Linn.) Inishmore and Inishmaan.
Lavatera arborea (Linn.), in the neighbourhood of several of the cottages at Killeany, and elsewhere.
Hypericum humifusum (Linn.)
H. pulchrum (Linn.)
Geranium sanguineum (Linn.)
G. molle (Linn.)
G. lucidum (Linn.)
G. robertianum (Linn.)
Erodium moschatum (Sm.), growing in the greatest profusion all along Killeany Bay.
Trifolium pratense (Linn.)
T. repens (Linn.)
Lotus corniculatus (Linn.)
L. major (Scop.)
[Astragalus hypoglottis (Linn.), is recorded in "Flora Hibernica" as from Arran, but was not found, though looked for.]
Vicia cracca (Linn.). Inisheer.
Prunus communis (Huds.) It is curious to find small trees of this species growing in the clefts between the limestone rocks; they sometimes grow out from between the rocks; but the heavy winds in the winter time keep them on a level with the surface of the ground.
Poterium sanguisorba (Linn.)
Potentilla anserina (Linn.)
P. reptans (Linn.)
P. tormentilla (Nestl.)
Fragaria vesca (Linn.)
Rubus cæsius (Linn.)
R. saxatilis (Linn.), very common amid the rocks everywhere on the largest island.
Geum urbanum (Linn.)
Rosa spinosissima (Linn.)
Epilobium hirsutum (Linn.). A few plants were met with in the damp ground to the west of Inishmore.
Hippuris vulgaris (Linn.)
Sedum rhodiola (D. C.) This plant grows in great profusion on the south-west end of Inishmore.
S. anglicum (Huds.)
S. acre (Linn.)
Saxifraga hypnoides (Linn.). In some exposed places a dense tufted variety of this species is met with.
Eryngium maritimum (Linn.)
Apium graveolens (Linn.), in the neighbourhood of Kilronan.

Helosciadium nodiflorum (Koch).
H. inundatum (Koch). Both these species were met with in some marshy ground, near Bungowla, on the west of Inishmore.
Pimpinella magna (Linn.), between Kilronan and the Roman Catholic chapel.
Crithmum maritimum (Linn.)
Daucus carota (Linn.)
Torilis anthriscus (Goert.)
T. nodosa (Goert.), at the foot of stone walls; very common in the islands.
Anthriscus sylvestris (Hoffm.)
Smyrnium olusatrum (Linn.)
Hedera helix (Linn.)
Cornus sanguinea (Linn.), very common amid the crevices of the rocks on Inishmore, and apparently truly wild.
Sambucus ebulus (Linn.), on the west side of Inishmore in some quantities; but in suspicious connexion with the ruins of that portion of the island.
Asperula cynanchica (Linn.)
Galium boreale (Linn.)
G. verum (Linn.)
Rubia peregrina (Linn.), very common in some parts of Inishmore and Inishmaan.
Aster tripolium (Linn.)
Bellis perennis (Linn.)
Achillea millefolium (Linn.)
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum (Linn.)
C. segetum (Linn.), only in two or three cultivated portions of ground in Inishmore.
Artemisia absinthium (Linn.)
Senecio vulgaris (Linn.)
S. jacobæa (Linn.)
S. aquaticus (Huds.), west end of Inishmore.
Carlina vulgaris (Linn.), very common on all the islands.
Centaurea nigra (Linn.)
C. scabiosa (Linn.)
Carduus nutans (Linn.), near the Seven Churches, on Inishmore.
C. tenuiflorus (Curt.)
C. arvensis (Curt.)
Silybum marianum (Gaert.), on the western side of Inishmore. Some magnificent specimens measured 5½ feet in height.
Apargia autumnalis (Willd.)
Leontodon taraxacum (Linn.)
Sonchus arvensis (Linn.)
Campanula rotundifolia (Linn.) This species grows in immense profusion in all suitable places in Inishmore.
Calluna vulgaris (Salisb.)
Erica cinerea (Linn.)

Erythræa centaurium (Pers.)
Gentiana campestris (Linn.)
G. verna (Linn.)
Convolvulus soldanella (Linn.)
Solanum dulcamara (Linn.), growing in shingly ground on the north-west side of Killeany Bay, and on the south-west of Inishmore, near Doonaghard and Dunaengus.
Orobanche hederæ (Duby.) Plentiful on ivy, growing up between the rocks, about Kilronan.
Verbascum thapsus (Linn.), on the west end of Inishmore.
Pedicularis palustris (Linn.)
P. sylvatica (Linn.)
Euphrasia officinalis (Linn.)
E. odontites (Linn.)
Veronica anagallis (Linn.)
V. beccabunga (Linn.)
V. chamædrys (Linn.)
V. officinalis (Linn.)
Mentha aquatica (Linn.)
Thymus serpyllum (Linn.)
Calamintha officinalis (Moench.) occurs in some quantity.
Prunella vulgaris (Linn.)
Lamium purpureum (Linn.)
Stachys sylvatica (Linn.)
S. palustris (Linn.)
Marrubium vulgare (Linn.). This species grows in great quantities on the south island (Inisheer); and not always in the vicinity of the small villages.
Ajuga reptans (Linn.)
[A. pyramidalis (Linn.) has been found near Kilronan by my friend Dr. Moore.]
Primula vulgaris (Huds.)
Lysimachia nemorum (Linn.)
Anagallis arvensis (Linn.)
A. tenella (Linn.)
Glaux maritima (Linn.)
Samolus valerandi (Linn.)
Armeria maritima (Willd.)
Plantago coronopus (Linn.)
P. maritima (Linn.)
P. major (Linn.)
Littorella lacustris (Linn.), growing in some little muddy pools on the west side of Inishmore.
Salsola kali (Linn.)
Suæda maritima (Dum.)
Chenopodium album (Linn.)
Beta maritima (Linn.)
Rumex conglomeratus (Murr.)

R. obtusifolius (Linn.)
R. acetosella (Linn.)
Polygonum amphibium (Linn.), wet places to the west of Inishmore.
Euphorbia paralias (Linn.), growing in profusion on the Trawnmore sand banks.
E. peplus (Linn.)
Callitriche verna (Linn.), growing on borders of wet ground with Littorella lacustris.
Parietaria officinalis (Linn.)
Urtica urens (Linn.), only met with in the immediate neighbourhood of Kilronan.
U. dioica (Linn.)
Humulus lupulus (Linn.), near the ruins of Templebrecan.
Juniperus communis (Linn.), common over the hilly district of Inishmore.
Orchis pyramidalis (Linn.)
O. mascula (Linn.)
Gymnadenia conopsea (R. Br.), very common on Inishmore.
Habenaria viridis (R. Br.). On the limestone district of Arran this species is not rare.
Spiranthes autumnalis (Rich.)
Allium babingtonii (Bor.). This species is to be met with very generally in all the islands. In Inishmore it will be easily found at Eararna, to the south-east, and at Ourtnagapple in the west.
Lemna minor (Linn.)

It is not of course to be supposed that this list gives the names of all the species to be met with on the Islands of Arran. A residence of some seven or eight months on the islands, or frequent visits to them during some such period, would be requisite to enable one to do this with anything like completeness; but I believe it to be a list of all, or almost all, the species to be met with in the month of August, and it is sufficient to enable one to compare the Flora of this group of islands with that of the opposite mainlands. These mainlands are—first, that of the Connemara district, in the county of Galway; and, secondly, that of the Burren district in the county of Clare. The former of these districts is the south-west portion of District 8, of Professor C. C. Babington,* and the latter is portion of the western part of District 6. At first sight it might not be thought possible, to say to which of these two districts the Arran Islands belonged; but, on examination, the general affinity of the Flora is seen to be to that of the Clare rather than to that of the Galway coast; so that Arran may be regarded as but the extension of Clare, at least from a geological point of view.

* "Proceedings of the Dublin University Zoological and Botanical Association," vol. i., p. 246, and "Cybele Hibernica," by Dr. Moore and A. G. More, 1866, p. xxxi.

In Mr. F. J. Foot's very interesting paper* "On the Distribution of Plants in the Burren District," he describes part of this district as consisting of bare rocky hills, which seem at first sight quite devoid of vegetation, and the desert-like aspect thus imparted to the landscape has caused it to be compared to parts of Arabia Petræa. The rock is traversed by different systems of joints, which form innumerable fissures in the flat beds, and on a close inspection it is found that all the chinks and crevices, caused by these joints and the action of rain, are the nurseries of very many plants, the disintegration of the rock producing a very rich productive soil. Almost the very same words might be used in reference to the Arran Islands, the general aspect of these islands presenting a very strong contrast indeed with the boulder-strewn surface of the Connemara district, with its innumerable small loughs and deep pools. Some sufficiently remarkable plants are found in both the Connemara district and on the Islands of Arran—such as *Gentiana verna*, *Allium babingtonii*, *Adiantum capillus-venoris*, &c.; but nearly all that might be thus cited are equally found on the islands and on the opposite Clare coast; and we have at least the following, which, not found in District 8, are equally common or rare on the Burren and the Arran coasts:—*Helianthemum canum*, *Ajuga pyramidalis*; and again many plants met with in the Connemara district, are not found either in Clare or Arran.

The season was not too far advanced for leguminous plants, and I could not but be struck by their absence. I did not meet with a single plant of *Ulex Europæus* or *Ononis arvensis*; and in Mr. Foot's list of Burren plants I find only two of the Leguminosæ recorded—*Lotus corniculatus* and *L. major*. Two common trefoils and the common tufted vetch were all that rewarded my search at Arran.

On the west and most exposed side of Inishmore many plants commonly met with were remarkable for their peculiar stunted growth: thus the Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*), which grows in the greatest abundance, was found in full flower, and yet the little miniature plants were not more than three inches in height. Plants of *Sedum rhodiola* were also met with not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. Such plants were invariably found growing out from the chinks between the stones.

A dwarfed condition of growth was not, however, by any means the rule; for not to allude to the gigantic flowering stems of *Allium babingtonii*, which, under favourable circumstances, reach to a height of from five to six feet, nor to the fronds of *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, some of which I have found twenty inches long, specimens of *Verbascum thapsus* were met with nearly five feet high, and covered with the richest pubescence, and in at least one instance a small colony of that fine thistle, *Silybum marianum*, was seen, some of the flowering stalks of which were five feet four inches in height.

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* "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," vol. xxiv. Science, Part III., Dublin, 1864, p. 143, *et seq.*

The inhabitants are indebted altogether to the mainland for their supply of fuel, and this supply comes in the form of turf from the immediate neighbourhood of Roundstone and Bertraghboy Bay. To this circumstance I am inclined to ascribe the appearance of patches of such plants as *Senebiera coronopus* and *Urtica urens* about the villages of Kilronan and Kilmeany.

The following species are enumerated as additions to the Flora of District 6:—

Ranunculus heterophyllus (Sibth.), var. trichophyllus (Chaix).
Sisymbrium officinale.
Cochlearia officinalis.
Apium graveolens.
Silybum marianum.
Suæda maritima.
Salsola kali.

A list of the principal detached papers relating to the Flora of Ireland is given in the Preface to the "Cybele Hibernica," pp. viii. to xiii., and in it will be found references to the papers by Mr. W. Andrews, Dr. D. Moore, F. L. S., Mr. Leslie Ogilby, and Professor D. Oliver, F. R. S., on the Flora of the Arran Islands.

In conclusion, and as some slight apology for the incompleteness of the above Notes on the Flora of the Arran Islands, I may mention, that they were made under very disadvantageous circumstances, as, save for one day, the weather during the whole of my sojourn at Kilronan was, even by the natives, considered very bad. Heavy rains all night and until the forenoon, strong gusts of wind continually driving in from the west or north-west, made collecting and drying plants oftentimes a work of difficulty; still, however small, I trust these Notes may be considered as a contribution towards making our knowledge of the distribution of the Irish Flora complete.

Dr. Moore said he would not detain the meeting at that late hour by any lengthened remarks on the paper Dr. Wright had just read, which contained much interest for those who studied the Flora of this country, as well as for those who studied the geographical distribution of plants in the British Isles. Hitherto it had been too much the custom for authors of papers on similar subjects to mention the names of the plants only which they had observed when on such botanical rambles as Dr. Wright had given a sketch of this evening; but he had treated the matter in a more philosophical manner, by first giving us an account of the geological structure of those outlying islands, compared with the formations on the nearest coasts of the mainlands of the counties of Galway and Clare, with a further comparison of the plants growing on the Arran Isles and adjacent coasts. In this way an extensive field for reasoning on the subject was opened up. He has ably pointed out that the Flora of Arran partakes more of that

on the Clare coast than it does of Galway, though the latter is so much nearer to those isles. It certainly is a remarkable circumstance that such plants as the maiden hair fern, *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, *Helianthemum canum*, and *Ajuga pyramidalis* should grow on the coast of Clare, opposite the Isles of Arran, and in the Isles also, but nowhere else in Ireland, with the exception of the fern, which has been seen in very small quantities in one or two other places. When compiling the work lately published, "Contributions to a Cybele Hibernica," Dr. Moore and his colleague had always found Dr. Wright most willing to give them every assistance in his power, and his name would be found quoted as an authority for several of our rarer plants. It would, however, have been referred to much oftener had it not been that Dr. Wright always preferred to see the names of younger collectors mentioned rather than his own.

After which was read the following paper :—

On some New Diatomaceæ collected by Dr. E. Perceval Wright off the large Island of Arran. By the Rev. Eugene O'Meara, A. M.

The paper I submit to your notice is an appropriate sequel to that which has been read this evening by Dr. E. Perceval Wright. It was his task to record the higher plants collected by him in the Arran Islands in August last; it is mine to describe the diatomaceous forms discovered by me in a marine gathering made off those islands.

The matter supplied to me, of which only a small portion has as yet been searched, was raised, as Dr. Wright informed me, from depths varying from 5 to 10 fathoms; and, taking into account the number and variety of the species found in it, this gathering may be regarded as one of the most interesting ever made—certainly the most interesting ever made in Ireland.

Some of the common marine species are met with. For instance :—

Actynoptychus undulatus.
Amphitetras antediluviana, var. β.
Biddulphia aurita.
Coscinodiscus radiatus.
,, minor.
Campylodiscus Ralfsii.
Eupodiscus crassus.
Grammatophora marina.
,, serpentina.
,, maculata.
Isthmia enervis.
Navicula didyma.
Nitzschia plana.
,, sigma.
Pleurosigma decorum.
,, formosum.
,, quadratum.
,, strigosum.
Rhabdonema arcuatum.
Stauroneis pulchella.
,, ,, var. β.
Synedra Gallionii.
Tryblionella marginata.

It is a remarkable fact that the above-named species are relatively few, and the forms belonging to them, generally speaking, are not of frequent occurrence.