

8 Remblington Cottage, Queen's Road Dalston
17 July 1860. London W.5.

114

Dear Sir,
By this afternoon's post-
wards to you the last part of
the Microscopical Journal, containing
the translation of Kolliker's paper on
these booms - "Parasitic Fungi" as he
calls them. You will of course on
reading, form your own judgment of it;
mine is that I never met with a looser,
more inconsequential one. Certain things
he finds - dubs with a certain name -
bends all his facts to this Procrustean
bed of a theory, without ever stopping
apparently to enquire into the probabilities

me to quit living off the Yarmouth Coast - having found
them to be equal living off the Yarmouth Coast - having found
P.S. I should have been glad to see your material letter from the
branches of *Volvulina*

of the case, whether, taking all circum-
stances into consideration analogy &
probability are not much rather with
the view held by other observers than with
his own. Truly Pore and Laparède did
wisely in suspending their judgments - much
more so than Kolliker - it reminds one of

"And fools rush in where angels fear to tread".
Since your former paper much light has been
obtained on the subject, probabilities are
certainly now more in favor of the burrowing
than the Fungus theory.

To find arguments truly cogent against
the latter wd not be difficult - fungi are
not known in sea water - yet these burrowings
are invariably, or with some doubtful exceptions
in subjects thence obtained - Fungi are
the commonest of common things in fresh
water standing - it is as difficult to find

substance thence obtained free from them
as in the other case to find them at all.
Doyle never strikes them that the spongia
as he calls them might belong equally to
them as burrowing sponges as well as Fungi.
I have seen these "spongia" in several cases
from true burrowing sponges!

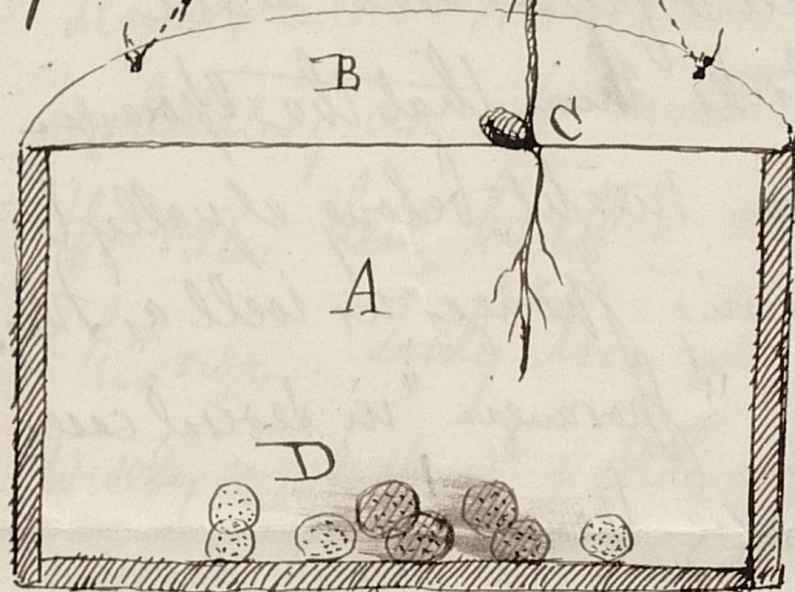
The "very similar canals in siliceous sponge species"
I have also seen been provided with - by these
should be more carefully looked to.

I can't admit the "difficulty" stated by Powell
"of conceiving these tubes to be effected by parasites
under such widely different circumstances of time
& place as those of the fossil recent species."

When he returns to town I intend to get a
glimpse of the "tubular network round osseous
skeleton" in the sponges in question & as to
be able to form an independent opinion about

it. Did you get the "growing trough" before
leaving town, as you proposed? Had an outline

Sketch made from an actual one, but cannot just now
 put my hands on it, but what I mean is like this



A shallow trough
 made of glass - the
 hinder B, somewhat
 larger than the front
 glass, A, which is
 the thickness of
 the glass used for
 the covers of micro-
 scopic slides. the

from the front. (D. fish scales) from the side shaded part,
 simply represent the glass slides cementing these together.
 By such an arrangement it will be evident that the
 growth of the rootlets of a seed, C, may be watched with
 high power, even to the $\frac{1}{8}^{\text{th}}$, without disturbing any-
 thing, the actual formation of cells, of nuclei, the
 circulation &c traced from hour to hour. By a
 slight modification this might be adapted to the observation
 of these minute boxes into fish scales. It would be
 necessary to find scales freshly gathered infested with
 them, this might require a good deal of perseverance,
 when found put into the "trough" which suspend
 in a marine aquarium in active healthy state
 when not under observation. But I suspect that
 creatures so minute wd not readily contaminate the
 water & that their proceedings might be watched for
 some hour at any rate.

Yr. v. sincerely Lubbe