

Heude
Avondale Road; Croydon, April 1889

April 18. 1889

Dear Sir J. W. Dawson,

Your
letter of the 5th inst. has just
reached me. Some of the points
referring to the finely spiculate
sponges I have already touched
upon in my letter to you of the
8th inst. If it were certain
that only simple rod like spi-
cules were present in some of
these sponges, it would be
proper to regard them as

distinct from those in which
cruciform spicules are mixed
with the rod-like forms,
but the specimens I have seen
leave much doubt as to this
point; I cannot clearly see
other than rod-like spicules
in some of them, but their gen-
eral appearance leads me
to think that they belong to
hexactinellid rather than to
monactinellid types and I
do not know of any monac-
tinellid sponges with which

they could be compared.

As regards the spiral mark-
ings on the anchoring spicules—
these occur in the recent Hyalone-
ma Sieboldii and in this the
spicules partly consist, as shown
by Carter, of minute spines (An-
n. Mag. N. H. S. 4. (1873) vol. 12, p. 25,
pl. 14, fig. 9) which however are
rarely preserved intact, and
as a rule only irregular fill-
like markings on the surface of
the spicule can be seen (I found
a fragment of one of the spicules of
Hyalonema from Japan, showing these).

Similar fibrils are present in the
fossil Sphalostetia fasciulus Menz
sp. (Sept. Brit. For. Sp. Soc. Proc.
vol. for 1886, pl. 1, fig. 36.)

The compound spirals you men-
tion also are present in the recent
Sphalomena, in which each of
the anchoring spicules of the rope
has a definite twist round
the others.

Believe me to remain

Yours very truly

George J. Hinde