

considered, to have its due influence on our systems. Notwithstanding, however, Blainville's unquestionable merits, his very defective acquaintance with species will ever prevent him becoming a first-rate systematist: he may sketch the outline, the details he cannot supply, and his attempt has exposed him to numerous errors: he is too fond of generalizations where his facts are few and specific; he wants the necessary neatness and brevity of definition, and he evinces everywhere such a total disregard to the old nomenclature that his system is not likely to become popular, or to be generally adopted. Many of his alterations are excellent, and must meet the approval of all, for surely no one will henceforth reinstate the apolypous sponges and vegetating corallines, which he has so properly separated, to a rank amongst proper polypes; and his removal of the Madreporæ from the compound hydraculous polypidoms to a level with the Actiniæ seems to be equally judicious, and beyond future cavil.

System of H. M. D. De BLAINVILLE. (1834.)

Class—ZOANTHA.

Body regular, resembling a flower, more or less elongated, free or fixed, very contractile, furnished with an intestinal canal without distinct parietes, and with a single large terminal aperture encircled with multiform tentacula, always hollow, and in communication with the musculo-cavernous parenchyma of the skin.

The class is divided into three families:

The Soft—Actiniadæ. Lucernaria, Actinia, &c.

The Coriaceous—Zoanthus.

The Calcareous—divided into 1. the *Madrephylliaæ*, in which are the genera *Turbinolia* and *Caryophyllæa*: and 2. the *Madreporæ*.

Class—POLYPIARIA.

Animals like the *Hydra*, viz. in general slender, furnished with a single series of filiform and not numerous tentacula, naked or contained in multiform cells (but never lamelliferous), clustered so as to form a polypidom very variable in shape and structure.

Sub-Class I. P. SOLIDA.—Containing the families *Millepores*, of which there is no British genus amongst recent zoophytes; and *Tubuliporea* which contains *Tubulipora* only.