

Millepora Skenei, Ellis and Soland. Zooph. 135. Turt. Gmel. iv. 635.
 Turt. Brit. Faun. 204. Stew. Elem. ii. 427.—*Cellepora palmata*,
 Flem. Brit. Anim. 532.—*C. Skenei*, Johnston in Trans. Newc. Soc.
 ii. 267.—*L'Eschare palmée*, Blainv. Actinol. 428.

Hab. In deep water, attached to shells and corallines. Near Aberdeen, *Skene*. "A single specimen from deep water, Zetland," *Fleming*. Coasts of Northumberland and Berwickshire, not rare.

Polypidom attached by a spreading base, calcareous, erect, from half an inch to an inch high, much compressed, divided in a palmate manner, the segments truncate, the surface very rough with the mucronate cells, which are immersed, arranged in regular rows, and have a roundish aperture guarded by a strong divaricate mucro, and in some of the cells there are one or two shorter spines at the base of this. From these spines being worn away the base of the polypidom

his father and grandfather had been physicians of reputation ; and he soon became eminent in his own profession, as well as in literature and science. To Botany he was particularly devoted ; and he frequently herborized in company with Principal Campbell and Dr Reid, who were both fully aware of his merits. The former is said to have often lamented that his observations on plants had never been given to the world ; while Dr Reid, in a letter addressed to him, observes, regarding his extensive acquirements—' But is it all to die with you, and to be buried in your grave ? This, my dear sir, ought not to be. *Stultum est perituræ parcere chartæ.* Can you find no time either when you are laid up in the gout, or when the rest of the world is in good health, to bequeath something to posterity ? Think seriously of this.' I find the same distinguished philosopher in another of his letters from Glasgow, urging the physician to present himself as a candidate for one of the medical chairs of that place, about to become vacant by the removal of Dr Black to Edinburgh, particularly as this might become a step towards the University of Edinburgh, to which Dr Reid thought his ambition should extend. Nor was this a mere partiality derived from previous personal intimacy ; for more than one seem to have been anxious that the Scottish metropolis should become Dr D. Skene's place of abode. Thus Lord Kames, a frequent and attached correspondent, says in one of his letters (dated Blair Drummond, 11th January 1769,) ' I have a most hearty resentment at you for refusing the offer made you by Dr Hope, which would have settled you in the town of Edinburgh, much to your profit I am certain ; but no particulars till I see you in the Harvest circuit ;' and in another, ' I wish from my heart to have you settled here, and cannot but regret a good opportunity you missed.' Dr Skene was also the correspondent of Pennant, Ellis, Walker, and of Linnæus, several of whose letters to him are still preserved. He died in December 1771, aged 36, leaving behind him numerous manuscripts ; and a museum, consisting of plants, minerals and shells, which might well have been called immense. Taking him all in all he was " probably as extraordinary a man as the north of Scotland ever produced ;" and it is hard to believe that, even in his native city, his name should now be entirely forgotten. See the " Northern Flora," by Alexander Murray, M. D. pref. p. x.