much of the solid crust of the globe is continually being renewed.

51. RECENT FORMATION OF MARINE LIMESTONE IN THE BERMUDAS.—The valuable series of specimens before me (presented by W. D. Saull, Esq.) is from the Bermuda Islands, and affords examples of this class of deposits in different states of consolidation. The sea which surrounds the Bermudas abounds in corals and shells; and from the action of the waves on the reefs, and on the dead shells, the water becomes loaded with calcareous matter. Much of this detritus is, no doubt, carried down to the profound depths of the ocean, and there envelopes the remains of animals and vegetables, thus forming new strata for the use of future ages; but a great proportion is borne by the waves towards the shores, and deposited in the state of fine sand. This sand is drifted inland by the winds, and becomes more or less consolidated by the percolation of water, and the infiltration of crystallized carbonate of lime; a fine white calcareous stone is thus formed, which in some localities is sufficiently compact for building. Imbedded in this limestone are numerous shells and corals, of the species which inhabit the neighbouring seas: in some instances the large mottled trochus, so well known to collectors both in its natural and polished state, with all its colours preserved, is imbedded in a pure, white limestone; in many specimens the colours are faded, and the shells very much in the state of