24. ORGANIC REMAINS OF THE SALIFEROUS STRATA.—The new red sandstone formation presents a remarkable contrast, in the paucity of organic remains, with the oolite and lias; for while the latter teem with marine exuviæ, and the bones of reptiles, the former, except in a few localities, is destitute of fossils; a proof that the strata were accumulated under circumstances unfavourable to the preservation of animals and vegetables.

Six or more species of fuci have been collected at Mansfeld, and are figured by M. Adolphe Brongniart, in his "Végétaux Fossiles;" in the entire series, twenty-three species of ferns or other cryptogamia, and seventeen of coniferæ and of other families, have been identified.

The polyparia, or corals, which are in such profusion in the oolite, yield but six or seven species; and the radiaria only the same number. A remarkably beautiful species of the crinoidea, or lily-shaped animals, occurs, however, in the *muschel-kalk* exclusively; it has not been discovered in England. The specimen before us (Tab.90), which belonged to the late Mr. Parkinson, is in great perfection, and admirably displays the structure of the original; in the lecture on zoophytes, the nature of the singular family to which it is referable will be explained.

Ammonites, nautili, belemnites, and about one hundred species of other mollusca, are specified as having been collected in the various strata of this