

of corals; while in the lias and other strata the mineralised skeletons of the lily-shaped radiaria were not less abundant. As we advance to the more ancient rocks, we shall find that the remains of these animals prevail in the older secondary strata, almost to the exclusion of other zoophytes; that entire mountain chains are composed of the consolidated *debris* of corals; and vast beds of limestone and marble, of the petrified skeletons of crinoidea. That we may understand the nature of these deposits, and be enabled to arrive at accurate conclusions as to their formation, a knowledge of the structure and habits of the existing animals is necessary; I therefore purpose devoting the present discourse to the consideration of the natural history of the recent and fossil corals, and of the lily-shaped animals.

2. ORGANIC AND INORGANIC KINGDOMS.—The beautiful world in which we are placed is every where full of objects presenting innumerable varieties of form and structure, of action and position; some of them being inanimate or inorganic, and others possessing organization or vitality. The organic kingdom of nature, in like manner, is separated into two grand divisions, the animal and vegetable. The differences between organic and inorganic bodies are numerous and manifest; but it will suffice for my present purpose to mention a few obvious and familiar characters. All the parts of an inorganic body enjoy an independent exist-