

temperate zones.\* I proceed to notice a few of the principal forms of polyparia.

16. THE FLUSTRA, OR SEA-MAT. (Plate V. fig. 6; Plate VI. figs. 3, 9.)—The flustræ, as I have already remarked, present great variety of form, sometimes being attached to marine plants, which they inclose, as it were, in a living sepulchre (Plate V. fig. 6); at others, spreading into thin foliated expansions, which have both sides studded with cells. The prevailing hue is white, or a light fawn colour, but some species have a tinge of pink or yellow. They abound in every sea, and are not restricted by climate, occur in profusion along the sea-shores, and are found attached to the fuci that are thrown up from the profound depths of the ocean. The small parasitical species, when dried, appear like spots of a chalky substance on the sea-weed. The increase of the flustra is thus described by Lamouroux: †—When the animal has acquired its full growth, it flings from the opening of its cell a small globular body, which fixes near the aperture, increases in size, and soon assumes the form of a new cell; it is yet closed, but through the transparent membrane that covers its surface, the motions of the polype may be detected; the habitation at length bursts, and the tentacula protrude, eddies are produced in the water, and conduct to the

\* CORALLINA; an excellent Abstract of Lamouroux's Memoir on the Flexible Corals. One vol. 8vo. 1834.

† Corallina, page 43.