

some the cells are very distinct, as in this coral from the Mediterranean (*oculina ramea*, Tab. 102, fig. 1); in others they are exceedingly minute, as in this common species of madrepore (*madrepora muricata*, Tab. 102, fig. 2). The white branched corals, usually seen in collections, belong for the most part to this genus; it is not, therefore, requisite to describe this form of zoophyte more minutely. In the water the madrepores are invested with a fleshy integument of various colours; and each cell has a polype similar to those of the corals previously examined, and in the living madrepore a polype is seen to issue from each of the projecting cells, the branches being covered with their hydra-like forms.

22. THE ACTINIA, OR SEA ANEMONE. (Pl. VI. fig. 8.)—In another division of corals the cells are few, and of considerable dimensions, the polypi being of proportionate size, and bearing considerable analogy to the actiniæ, or sea-anemones, which are so common on the rocks, and in the shallows on our shores; a few observations on these animals will therefore enable us to comprehend the nature of this group of polyparia. The actinia, or sea-animal flower, as it is often termed, appears, when quiescent, like a mass of tough jelly, of a sub-cylindrical form, and of various tints of crimson, green, blue, or brown (see Pl. VI. fig. 8); when expanded it presents a broad disk, surrounded by tentacula, having in the centre a corrugated sur-