

In the Shanklin sand of the Isle of Wight, Mr. Webster discovered the remains of a species of *Syphonia*, which he called the tulip alcyonium.\* The original appears to have resembled in shape a closed tulip, having a pyriform bulb or head supported by a long stem, with a broad base for attachment to the rock. Sections of the bulb display a congeries of longitudinal tubes, arranged somewhat concentrically, and these may be traced from the base and along the stem; similar remains have been found by Mr. Bensted in the Kentish rag, near Maidstone; these fossils are generally silicified throughout. A species of *syphonia* abounds in the silicious nodules of the chalk near Lewes and Brighton; and in one quarry, every flint contains vestiges of this kind of zoophyte.

The manner in which the remains of polyparia are distributed in the white chalk involves an interesting inquiry; they occur promiscuously intermingled with shells, echini, and fishes; we find no beds of corals—nothing to point out the former existence of reefs. This phenomenon, however, is in accordance with the general lithological characters of the chalk formation, and the nature of its organic remains; both of which indicate a profound ocean. As polyparia can only exist at moderate depths, the occurrence of coral reefs was not to be expected, except in those beds which may be

\* *Syphonia pyriformis* of Goldfuss. Dr. Fitton's Memoir, Plate XV.