deposits, the Oolite or Jura formation, which, as we have seen, extends over a great part of Europe, and has been formed in a vast sea, coral beds are not universally distributed, but occur only in certain localities; in other terms, they are found to occupy the situations which in their native seas presented the conditions required by their peculiar organization. The zoophytes of the oolite have yielded about 200 species, all of which are extinct.

In the Lias but few polyparia are preserved; and the saliferous system presents but three or four species of gorgonia, three of retepora, and one of astrea.

37. CORALS OF THE OLDER SECONDARY FORMATIONS.—The mountain limestone of the carboniferous system, which will be described in the next lecture, abounds in the cellular and lamelliferous zoophytes. In the Silurian rocks, entire beds are composed of the remains of polyparia; and a few species of corals constitute the last trace of animal organization in the crust of our globe.

The simple turbinated corals having, like the fungia, but a solitary cell, inhabited by one polype, occur in great abundance and perfection in the limestones of Dudley, which belong to the Wenlock formation* (Tab. 111, figs. 1, 3); a small species of fungia (Tab. 111, fig. 2), is also found associated with the immense mass of marine exuviæ of which those strata are composed.

* Of Mr. Murchison.