

men's-fingers, so commonly attached to oysters and other shells, presents an example of this type of zoophytal organization.*

In collecting fossil zoophytes, from the Chalk, for example, the specimens may be easily separated into two groups; namely, those which have a porous structure, like the Sponge, and those in which regular cells, or polype-cavities, are discernible. The hard corals may be readily known by their calcareous, crystalline structure.

There is much confusion in the names by which the fossil bodies of this family are distinguished; and this has originated, in part, from different states of the same species having been described by different names, and also from the common and reprehensible practice of changing, without sufficient reason, the names assigned to species by the original discoverers.

SPONGITES. — Mass polymorphous; structure porous, and destitute of regular tubes or canals. As a generic name, *Spongites*, may serve to distinguish those fossils whose identity with the recent Sponges is apparent. The Chalk often contains cyathiform (*cup-shaped*) flints, which enclose a funnel-shaped sponge (*Spongites Townsendi*. *Foss. South D.* Tab. XV. fig. 9.). A common ramose species some-

* See Dr. George Johnston's *Brit. Zooph.* plate 26; and *Wond.* Plate V. fig. 8.