

the individual being conscious of the process. If a piece of white coral be immersed in dilute hydrochloric acid, the calcareous part will be removed, and the secreting membrane, in the form of a flocculent substance, be seen attached to the undissolved part; and even in some coralline marbles, although of incalculable antiquity, the animal membrane may, in like manner, be detected.*

We will now examine some of the principal examples of this interesting class of fossil organisms, and commence with those which possessed a soft or flexible substance, like the *Alcyonium digitatum*. It will be obvious that, from the delicate and perishable nature of many of the gelatinous polyparia, numerous tribes may have inhabited the seas, which deposited the fossiliferous strata, and yet no indications of their existence remain; while, of others, but obscure traces of their structure may be discernible.

VENTRICULITES, (*Lign.* 60, 61.).—Polyparium inversely conical, or fungiform; external surface reticulated; inner surface covered with polypiferous cells; base fixed.†

* *Org. Rem.* Vol. II. Plate I. fig. 3.

† In my former works I have described the fossils referred to this genus, as individual zoophytes; but more accurate investigations have convinced me that the originals were POLYPIARIA, as the late Mr. Miller suggested to me long since.