http://geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1844-Mantell-MedalsCreation/README.htm

Ventriculites; and that their diversity of figure has arisen from the quantity of silex that happened to permeate the zoophyte; if but a small portion, then flints, like fig. 4, were produced; if the quantity were more considerable, fungiform flints, as *Lign.* 60, fig. 3, and *Lign.* 61, fig. 3, were the result.

The original form of the Ventriculite was that of a funnel, or hollow inverted cone, terminating in a point at the base, whence numerous fibres proceeded, by which it was attached to other bodies. The outer integument was reticulated, that is, disposed in meshes, like net-work; and the inner surface studded with regular openings, the orifices of tubular cells, each of which was probably occupied by a polype. The substance of the polyparium, or frame-work, of this aggregation of animalcules, appears to have been analogous to that of the soft alcyonia, and seems to have possessed a common irritability, and been able to expand and contract. This opinion is based on the circumstance, that specimens occur in which the zoophyte is in the form of a nearly flat, circular disc; and others in that of a sub-cylindrical pouch. In the former state the outer reticulated structure is elongated, while in the latter, it is contracted and corrugated. The polype-cells are cylindrical, and very regular; the flints often present beautiful casts of them, which appear like rows of minute pillars on the inner surface. When the flint that fills up the cavity of the Ven-