

vade some of the strata, and are, in fact, coral-reefs, that have accumulated beneath the sea, on the areas they now occupy (*Ly.* II. pp. 42, 43.). The strata of the Oolite, called *Coral-rag* from the abundance of these relics, are literally composed of an aggregation of large corals, the interstices between them being filled with shells, radiaria, &c., either whole, or in a comminuted state. The heaps of stones placed by the road-side, in the N. W. of Berkshire, appear like fragments of an old coral-reef, and attract the notice even of the most incurious observer. I have figured a specimen of *Astrea*, *Lign.* 68, fig. 1, and a polished specimen, fig. 1a, from Clifton, a locality abounding in fine sections of mountain limestone, yielding beautiful examples of coralline marble. The mode of increase of the *Astreæ* is very curious, a subdivision taking place in the old cells, after the manner of many of the Infusoria; and among the fossils, a star or cell may be seen in progress of division into two, three, or four stars (*Murch. Sil. Syst.* pl. 16, fig. 6.). A living polype of this genus is figured, *Wond.* Pl. VI. figs. 7, 11.

A highly interesting species of *Astrea*, (*A. Tisburyensis.* *Wond.* p. 571.) is found in large hemispherical masses, completely silicified, at Tisbury, in Wiltshire. The transverse surface displays, in some specimens, beautiful white radiated stars, on a dark blue ground; and in others, the colours of the stars and ground are reversed. This silicified coral