

MONOMYARIA : *Bivalve Shells, with one muscular impression.*

OSTREA, *Lign.* 85.—The Oyster is well known to possess no power of locomotion; it is attached to rocks, pebbles, and other bodies, and forms extensive beds, consisting of numerous individuals, of all sizes. There are many fossil species; the British strata yield between forty and fifty. In some localities, Oysters are found in thick beds, of great extent, apparently on the spots they occupied when living. One of the most interesting localities I am acquainted with, is Sundridge Park, near Bromley, in Kent, where a hard conglomerate, entirely made up of oyster-shells, and the shingle that formed their native bed, is quarried. This stone is much employed for ornamental rock-work, and several walls in and near Bromley are constructed of it: these display the fossils, some with the valves closed, others open, others detached, and the whole grouped as if artificially imbedded to expose the characters of the shells. These oyster-beds belong to the tertiary strata of the London basin; they extend to Plumstead, and other places in the vicinity; and in some localities, the oysters are associated with other bivalves, called *Pectunculi*. In the tertiary clays near Woolwich and Bexley, fossil oyster-shells abound. In the neighbourhood of Reading, in Berkshire, an extensive layer of fossil oysters occupies the same geological