The stone called "Purbeck marble," formerly much used in ornamental architecture in the old English cathedrals of the southern counties, is exclusively procured from this division.

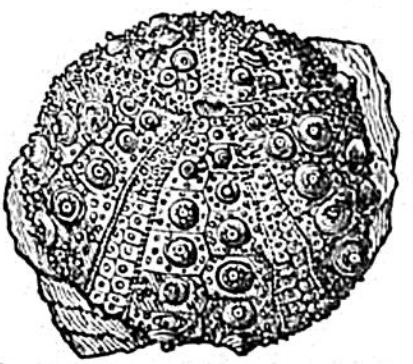
Middle Purbeck.—Next in succession is the Middle Purbeck, about 30 feet thick, the uppermost part of which consists of freshwater limestone, with cyprides, turtles, and fish, of different species from those in the preceding strata. Below the limestone are brackish-water beds full of *Cyrena*, and traversed by bands abounding in *Corbula* and *Melania*. These are based on a purely marine deposit, with *Pecten*, *Modiola*, *Avicula*, *Thracia*, all undescribed shells. Below this, again, come limestones and shales, partly of brackish and partly of freshwater origin, in which many fish, especially species of *Lepidotus* and *Microdon radiatus*, are found, and a crocodilian reptile named *Macrorhyncus*. Among the mollusks, a remarkable ribbed *Melania*, of the section *Chilina*, occurs.

Immediately below is the great and conspicuous stratum, 12 feet thick, long familiar to geologists under the local name of "Cinder-bed," formed of a vast accumulation of shells of *Ostrea distorta* (fig. 335). In the uppermost part of this bed Professor Forbes discovered the first echinoderm (fig. 336) as yet known in the Purbeck series, a species of *Hemicidaris*, a genus characteristic of the Oolitic period, and scarcely, if at all, distinguishable from a previously known oolitic species. It was accom-

Fig. 335.

Ostrea distorta.
Cinder-bed, Middle Purbeck.

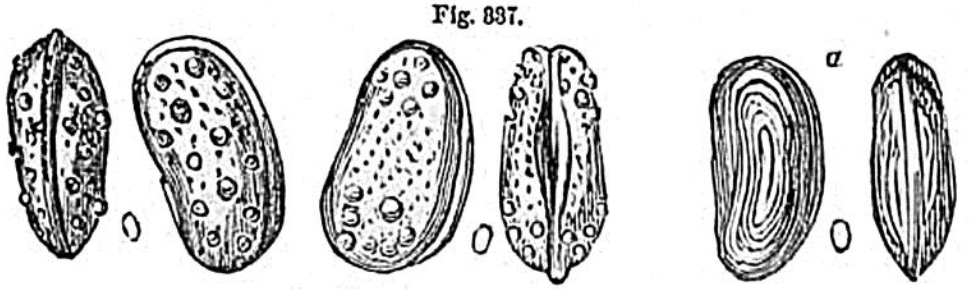
Fig. 336.



Hemicidaris Purbeckensis, E. Forbes.
Middle Purbeck.

panied by a species of *Perna*. Below the Cinder-bed freshwater strata are again seen, filled in many places with species of *Cypris* (fig. 337,

Fig. 337.



Cyprides from the Middle Purbecks.
a. Cypris striato-punctata, E. Forbes. *b. Cypris fasciculata*, E. Forbes.
c. Cypris granulata, Sow.

a, *b*, *c*), and with *Valvata*, *Paludina*, *Planorbis*, *Limnæus*, *Physa* (fig. 338), and *Cyclas*, all different from any occurring higher in the