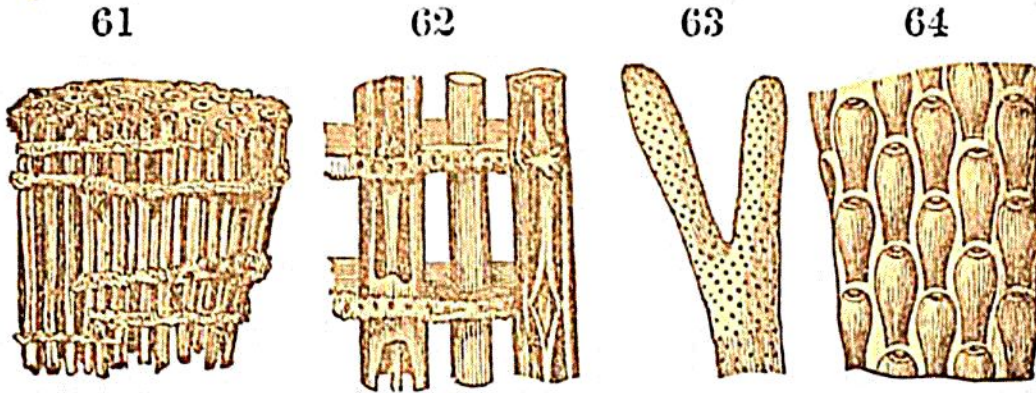
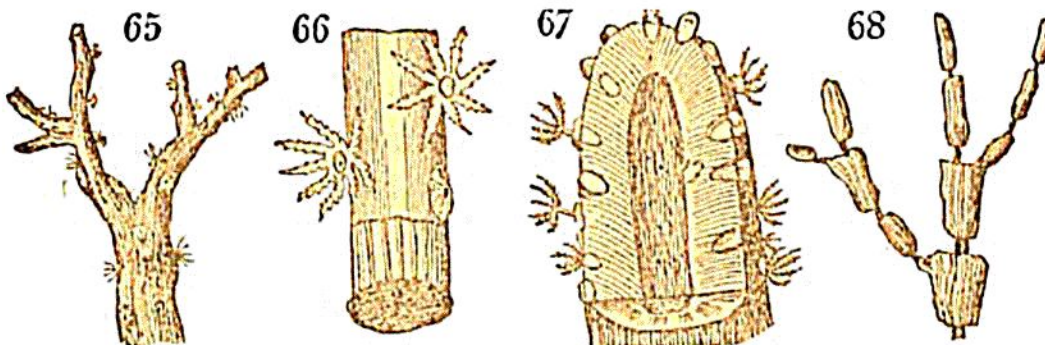


extremity of the branches, presenting the greatest similitude to flowers. The *Flustra* (Fig. 63) is composed of minute



and almost microscopic cells, spread over a flat membranous substance, resembling, in the flexibility of its texture, and its mode of subdivision, the leaves of plants. These cells are arranged in rows, with great regularity, like those of a honey-comb, as is seen in the magnified view of them, Fig. 64.

In other tribes the inorganic base of support is internal, constituting a kind of skeleton or *axis*; the polypous mouths being spread at intervals over the surface of the fleshy layer which covers this skeleton. This is the case with the *Gorgonia*, *Antipathes* and *Coral*, which exhibit still closer resemblances to the branched forms of vegetable stems. The flesh contains granules of calcareous matter, which, in the dried specimens, adhere to the surface of the stems. Fig. 65 is a branch of the *Corallium rubrum*, of which Fig. 66



is a magnified portion, showing the appearance of the polypes in their expanded and contracted states. The way in which the polypes are imbedded in the flesh is seen in Fig. 67, which represents a section of the *Gorgonia Briareus*.

In many cases the polypes are lodged in cup-like depres-