

mud containing iron in solution, the sulphur would enter into combination with the iron, the hydrogen escape, and a sulphate or sulphuret of iron be deposited, atom by atom, and thus impart colour and permanence of form to the original. When the enclosed polyparia in flint nodules have perished, chalcedony, quartz crystals, or crystallized pyrites, sometimes of great beauty, are found occupying the cavities. In short, numerous modifications of the petrifactive process, are beautifully exhibited in these common, but highly interesting fossil remains.

The species of *Ventriculite* to which the previous remarks especially refer, is named *V. radiatus*; from the radiated character of the reticulated external integument. Some of the expanded specimens are more than one foot in diameter.

A small and very elegant species (*V. Benettiae*), is common in the Wiltshire chalk.* It may be added that a memoir by the author on the *Ventriculites* (under the name of *Alcyonium chonoides*), with four beautiful plates, was published in the *Linnean Transactions*, Vol. XI. The *Ventriculites* are the only fossils figured in Messrs. Conybeare and Phillips's *Geology of England and Wales* (p. 76.).

* The reader interested in these remains should consult *Foss. South Downs*, p. 167, and Plates X., XI., XII., XIII., XIV.; or *Geol. S. E.* p. 97.