

quadrangular, flat, with a distinct border.\* This is one of the most common genera of the encrusting and frondescent zoophytes. The *Flustra* consists of a cluster, or aggregation of polypes, invisible to the naked eye; under the microscope, the polype is found to be a transparent gelatinous body, with a sac, or digestive cavity, the external margin of which terminates in eight or ten feelers, or tentacula, and the whole is surrounded by a firm wall, constituting a cell, that contains the body, and from which the animal can protrude its tentacula and upper parts. Figures of the living polypes, cells, &c. of the *Flustra*, are given *Wond.* p. 522, Pl. VI. figs. 3, 9.

Numerous species of fossil *Flustræ* occur in the British strata: the encrusting forms are attached to echinites, shells, &c.; the foliaceous imbedded in

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\* The *Flustra*, *Eschara*, &c. belong to the polypes called *Bryozoa* (moss-animals, so named because their aggregated masses encrust other bodies like moss), which, although exceedingly minute, almost all being microscopic, are highly organized; their digestive organs are more developed than in the other classes, and are as complicated as those of birds. The class of polypes, whose calcareous skeletons principally constitute the coral reefs of tropical seas, are of a lower organization, and are called *Anthozoa* (*flower-animals*), the polypes of which resemble the common *Actinia*, or sea-anemone. The lowermost class are the *Hydrozoa* (hydra-animals, that is, resembling the common fresh-water polype or hydra); in them digestion is performed by a simple sac or pouch. See the admirable Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, by Professor Owen. Lecture VII. *Polypi*.