

of numerous ossicula, or little calcareous bones; the last, of crustaceous brittle plates. These durable parts of the animal fabric occur in immense quantities in the sedimentary deposits; and in many parts of England, and of northern Europe and America, entire mountain-chains are chiefly composed of the bones and detritus of *Crinoideæ*, belonging to numerous extinct species and genera.

Diversified in figure as are the animals arranged in this section, they are naturally related by their organization. The Crinoideæ may be regarded as star-fishes fixed to one spot by a jointed stem; the Star-fishes as free Crinoideæ; and the Echinidæ as star-fishes with the rays coalesced and united together into a globular or spherical case.

FOSSIL CRINOIDEÆ.—The fossil remains of the Crinoideæ, have long since received the name of *Stone-lilies*, from the fancied resemblance of the body of the animal when in a state of repose to a closed lily or tulip; but this appellation is generally restricted to those which have cylindrical or elliptical stems; the term *Pentacrinite*, being applied to those whose support is made up of angular ossicula. One living species only is known, the *Pentacrinus Caput-Medusa*, an inhabitant of the Caribbean Sea (*Wond.* p. 580.). This animal has a long jointed stem, which is fixed at its base by radicle processes, and supports a cup-like receptacle, formed of a series of calcareous plates closely