

like that of *Gorgonia*; in others, it consists of long jointed processes or arms. These several parts of the skeleton are commonly met with more or less detached, and intermingled with the detritus of the strata; and throughout extensive tracts of encrinital limestone, no vestiges of the receptacle are discoverable. But in some localities the skeletons are preserved entire, and spread out on the surface of the layers of shale, clay, or limestone, as if the animals had been enveloped by the soft deposit when alive, on their native sites.

These remarks will afford the reader a general idea of the nature of the animals whose remains are scattered through certain rocks in such inconceivable quantities; for, much as the column may differ in form, the ossicula in their markings, and the plates of the receptacle in their configuration and ornament, the same type of organization will be found to prevail throughout the whole family. This subject is so fully illustrated by Dr. Buckland (*Bd.* plates 47—53.), that I need not enlarge upon it, but shall proceed to describe a few specimens, to guide the student in his investigations.*

* The best English work is MILLER'S *Crinoidea, or Natural History of the Lily-shaped Animals*. 1 vol. 4to. 1821; with coloured plates;—for, although numerous genera have since been discovered, the principles of Mr. Miller's arrangement are still followed. The Penny Cyclopaedia, Art. *Encrinites*, may be consulted with advantage; and I would here