

saurus must have gambolled, and the goggle-eyed ichthyosaurus have darted along the tracts now traversed by the porpoise and the whale.

The Oolitic deposits in the neighborhood of Helmsdale consist mainly of beds of a laminated, dark-colored, arenaceous shale (charged with ammonites and belemnites, serpula and terbratula), which alternate with beds of a rough conglomerate, formed chiefly, as has been already intimated, of Old Red Sandstone materials. The corals, especially those of the genus *Isastrea*, occur both in the shales and the conglomerates; but it is amid the rocky masses of which the latter are composed that they seem to have grown; and in the shale we not unfrequently find them overturned, as if they had been torn with violence from their proper habitats on some stony ridge or hard bottom, and buried head-downwards in the mud. Corals, apparently of two different species, occur at Brora, but in so defective a state of keeping, that little else can be said regarding them than that they are said to belong to the genus *Thecosmilia*. In both, the corallum is composite and dendroid; but in the one the branches strike off at more acute angles than in the other. Its calices, too, are more rounded at their edges, and its septa less simple, more flexuous, and more prominently denticulated. So imperfect is their state of preservation, that neither species exhibits the exterior coating or epitheca characteristic of the genus. The place in the system in which they occur is higher than that of the beds at Helmsdale, but not higher than the base of the Great Oolite. And such are all the corals of the Oolitic system in Scotland with which the explorations of years have brought me acquainted.

The other subject to which I purpose directing for a brief space the attention of the Society has a connection, rather incidental than direct, with the fossil corals of our country. On first acquainting myself, about ten years ago, with the massive