

genera have a wide range. It is desirable to give some idea, especially by drawings, of the leading and characteristic plants and animals that have successively peopled the globe since it became habitable. We begin with the lowest formation and pass upward.

### 1. CAMBRIAN OR HURONIAN SYSTEM.

#### *Lower Cambrian Sedgwick.*

Notwithstanding the great thickness of this rock (12,000 feet in this country and 26,000 in Wales), not more than half a dozen fossils have been found in it. The most interesting is a zoophyte, found in Ireland, and called *Oldhamia antiqua*, Fig. 148, named after its discoverer, Professor Oldham. In this country and in Bohemia no fossils have been found in this rock.

"The reader," says Sir Roderick I. Murchison, "may look with reverence on this zoophyte; for, notwithstanding the most assiduous researches, it is the only animal relic yet known in this very low stage of unequivocal sedimentary matter."

*Lithichnozoa*, or animals made known by their tracks. The

Fig. 148.



Fig. 149.



*Palæochorda major.*