

to sponges, and the Foraminifera. Of the first we present two examples. Fig. 322 shows the *Ventriculites radiatus* and Fig. 323 the *Cœloptychium lobatum*, both from the European chalk.

Fig. 322.

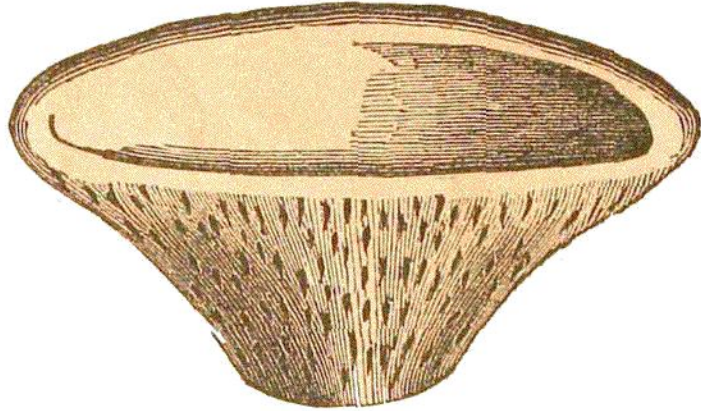
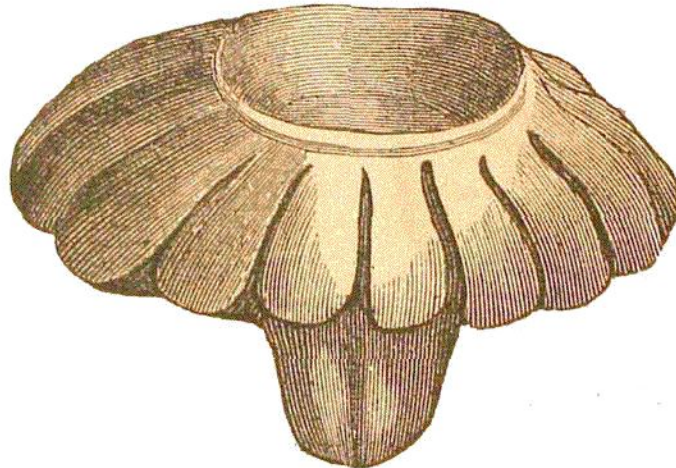
*Ventriculites radiatus.*

Fig. 323.

*Cœloptychium lobatum.*

We have elsewhere spoken of the great difficulty naturalists have experienced in disposing of the sponges, both living and fossil. They are certainly organic; but whether animals or plants, or to be regarded as an intermediate group, as Owen supposes, remains to be decided. Pictet divides them into three families; 1, the Spongides; 2, the Clionides; 3, the Petrospongides: the last of which is exclusively fossil. They commence with the silurian, where are three genera. One is added in the Devonian, four in the Permian, five in the Trias, nine in the Oolite, and nineteen in the chalk.