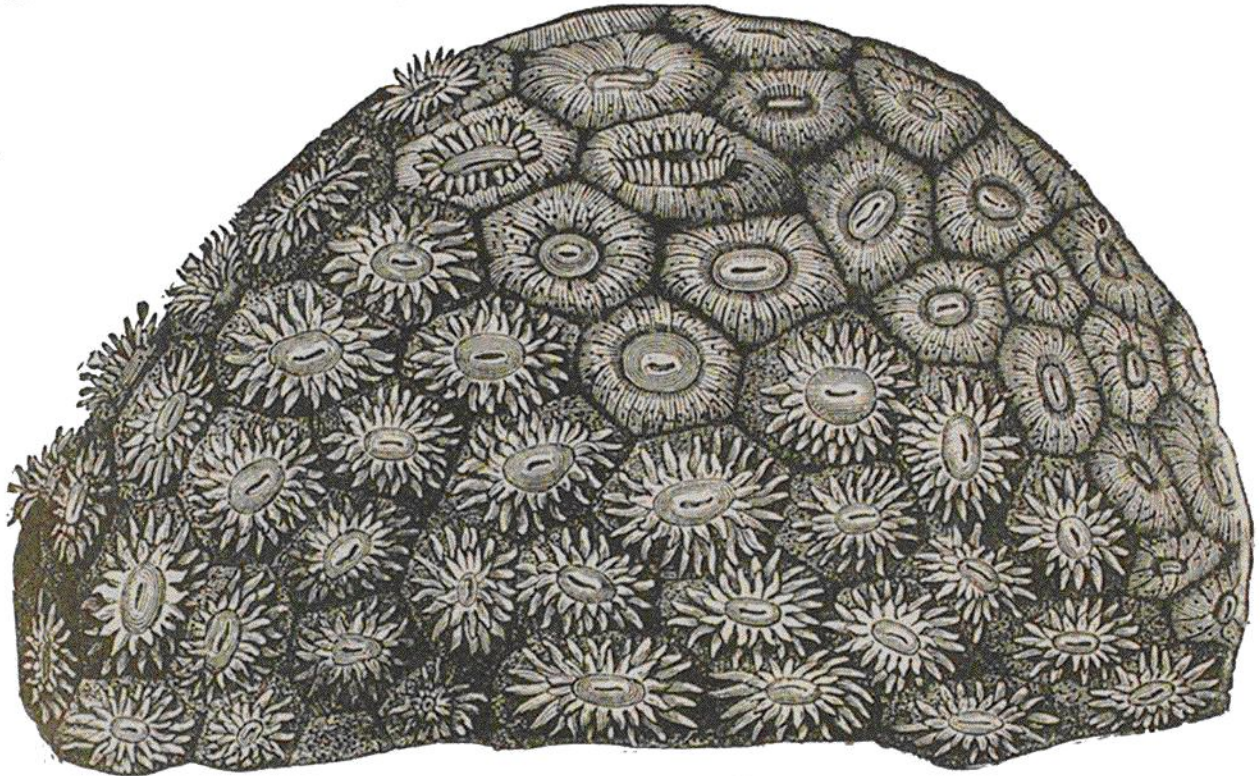


page 37, illustrates one section of this family, that in which each branch of the corallum is made by a single polyp, and branching is by furcation through spontaneous fission. In other related genera, as *Mussa*, the polyps sometimes have a diameter of two inches, being as large as ordinary *Actiniæ*.



ASTRÆA PALLIDA, D.

The *Astræa pallida* is a good representative of the massive *Astræas*. The colour of the polyps in this species is quite pale, the disks being bluish-gray, and the tentacles whitish. In others, the tentacles are emerald-green, or deep purple, or of other shades:

Another range of forms is represented by the following figure of one of the Meandrine corals, already referred to as often called "Brain coral." In the figure, the coral is reduced one-half lineally. The difference between its mode of formation and that of an *Astræa* has been stated on page 38. This species is common at the Bermudas, where it grows to a diameter of three feet. It is also found in the West Indies. The ridges in this species are double, and hence the name *Diploria*, from the Greek for *double*. A common large West India species of Brain coral is called *Meandrina labyrinthica*.