

Occasionally they make large, massive corals, from the growing of plate over plate. One of these massive species, *Escharella variabilis*, is common on the coast of the United States from Cape Cod southward.

The first of the foregoing figures, from Smitt's work on the Bryozoans, represents one of the delicately branching species, of natural size; and the second, a portion of the same, much enlarged. The latter figure shows that the branches are made up of minute cells. From each cell, when alive, the bryozoum extends a circlet of tentacles, less than a line in diameter.

The incrusting kinds are common in all seas. The crust of cells they make is often thinner than paper. A portion of such a crust is represented, enlarged, in figure 3. When expanded, the surface is covered over with the delicate flower-like bryozoa. A low magnifying power is necessary to observe them distinctly. The animals, unlike true polyps and the Hydroids, have two extremities to the alimentary canal, and in this, and other points, they are Molluscan in type.

The cells of a group never have connection with a common tube, as in the Hydroids; on the contrary, each little Bryozoum, in the compound group or zoöthome, is wholly independent of the rest in its alimentary canal.

Bryozoans occur in all seas and at all depths; and in early Paleozoic time they contributed largely to the making of limestone strata. The two specimens figured on the preceding page occur on the coast of New England, as well as in the seas of North Europe.

#### IV. NULLIPORES.

The more important species of the Vegetable Kingdom that afford stony material for coral reefs are called Nullipores. They are true Algæ or sea-weeds, although so completely stony and solid that nothing in their aspect is plant-like. They form thick, or thin, stony incrustations over surfaces of dead corals, or coral rock, occasionally knobby or branching, and often