perhaps draw some inferences as to the rate in polyps of corresponding size. But no satisfactory observations on this point have yet been made.

Although the rapidity is undoubtedly far less than was formerly reported, the following facts from different sources seem to show that the rate is greater than has been of late believed. Mr. Darwin, citing from a manuscript by Dr. Allan, of Forres, some experiments made on the east coast of Madagascar, states that, in December, 1830, twenty corals were weighed, and then placed by him apart on a sandbank, in three feet water (low tide), and in the July following, each had nearly reached the surface and was quite immovable; and some had grown over the others. Mr. Darwin mentions also a statement made to him by Lieutenant Wellstead, that "in the Persian Gulf a ship had her copper-bottom incrusted in the course of twenty months, with a layer of coral two feet thick,"—evidently to be accepted hesitatingly. He also speaks of a channel in the lagoon of Keeling atoll having been stopped up in less than ten years: and of the natives of the Maldives finding it necessary occasionally to root out, as they express it, coral knolls from their harbours.

Mr. Stutchbury describes a specimen consisting of a species of oyster whose age could not be over two years, incrusted by an Agaricia weighing two pounds nine ounces; but he does not state whether the shell was that of a living oyster or not.

Dr. D. F. Weinland states that on Hayti, in a small coral basin between the town of Corail and the island Caymites, never disturbed by vessels on account of the small depth of water, he observed several branches of the *Madrepora cervicornis* projecting above the surface of the water from three to five inches, all of which, down to the water level, were dead, as a result evidently of exposure to the air. This was in the month of June. He adds that all along the north shore of Hayti, the water level is from four to six feet higher in the winter season than during summer; and suggests that the