

space between the cannon. After breaking three inches of coral crust I found the collar-bone of a man, a brass regulating screw belonging to a quadrant, and some large lead bullets. . . . The magazine must be under the branch-coral, which has been sixty-four years growing. . . .”

Here we have a height of *sixteen feet* in a *Madrepora* attained in *sixty-four years*, or at the rate of three inches a year. *Madrepores* evidently grow with much greater rapidity than the massive corals.

Observations on the rate of growth of different species might easily be made by those residing in coral seas, either in the manner adopted by Mr. Allan (placing the specimens on a platform which could be raised for examination from time to time—say every five years), or by placing marks upon particular species where they are immovably fixed to the bottom. By inserting slender glass pins a certain distance from the summit of a *Madrepore*, its growth might be accurately measured from month to month. Two such pins in the surface of an *Astræa* would in the same manner, by the enlarging distance between, show the rate of increase in the circumference of the hemisphere; or if four were placed so as to inclose an area, and the number of polyps counted, the numerical increase of polyps resulting from budding might be ascertained. If specimens are selected, as done by Mr. Allan, it is important that they should be placed where other corals are growing in luxuriance, so as to be sure that there are no deleterious influences to retard growth. It is to be hoped that some of the foreign residents at the Sandwich, Society, Samoan, or Feejee Islands will take this subject in hand. There are also many parts of the West Indies where these investigations might be conveniently made.