

It is apparent that we are describing a second time an *outer* reef. Without dwelling further upon its characters, we may pass to the features of the reef when raised above the waters and covered with vegetation.



n

e

d

c

b

a

m

SECTION OF THE RIM OF AN ATOOLL.

Sections of coral islands and their lagoons have been given by Captain Beechey and Mr. Darwin. We add another, by way of illustration, although little may be presented that is novel after the excellent descriptions of these authors. Sketches of several of these islands, showing the general relation of the rim of land to the reef and the lagoon within, are given in the maps of islands on pages 133, 135. The accompanying sketch represents a section of the rim of land from the sea on one side (the left) to the lagoon on the other. In the view, the part *m a* represents the shallow sea bordering an island, and abruptly deepening one to six hundred feet from the line of breakers. In these shallow waters are the growing corals; yet, as before stated, a large part is often barren sand or coral rock, especially where the depth is over fifty feet.

From *a* to *b* is the shore platform or reef-rock, nearly at low-tide level, with the margin (*a*) slightly elevated, and usually much incrustated at top with Nullipores. From the platform there is a rise, by a steep beach (*b c*), of six or eight feet, to the wooded part of the coral belt represented between *c* and *d*. From *d* to *e* there is a gently sloping beach bordering the lagoon. Beyond *e*, the waters of the lagoon at first deepen gradually, and then fall off more or less abruptly.