

of many of the greenish strata are the internal casts of foraminiferous shells (see pp. 766, 1081). Some of the more frequent genera are Globigerina, Orbitolina, Nodosaria, Textilaria, and Rotalia (Fig. 411). Calcareous sponges are of frequent occurrence, while siliceous sponges must have swarmed on the floor of the Cretaceous seas, for their siliceous spicules are abundant, and entire individuals are not uncommon.¹⁰⁷ Characteristic genera (Fig. 412) are Ventriculites, Siphonia, Coeloptychium, and Corynella. The forma-

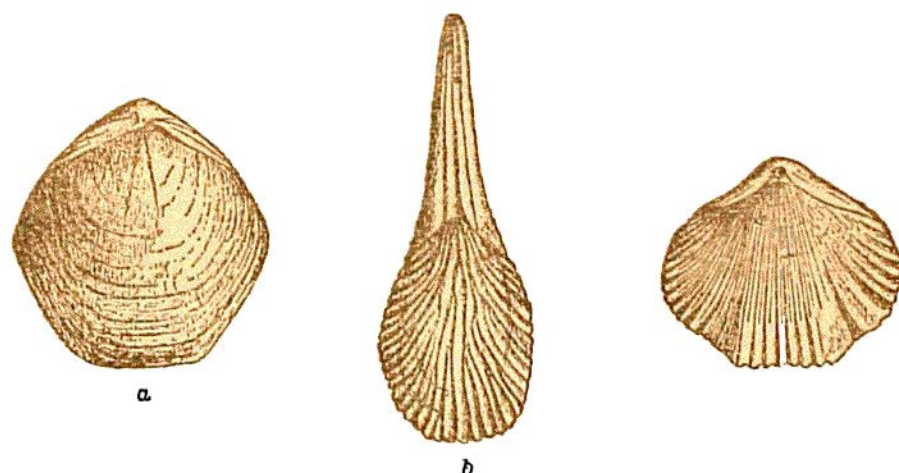


Fig. 414.—Cretaceous Brachiopods.

a, *Terebratula carnea*, Sow. (2-3); *b*, *Terebrirostra lyra*, Sow. (2-3); *c*, *Rhynchonella plicatilis*, var. *octoplicata*, Sow. (2-3).

tion of flints has been referred to the operation of sponges. Undoubtedly these animals secreted an enormous quantity of silica from the water of the Cretaceous sea, and though the flints are certainly not due merely to their action alone, amorphous silica may have been aggregated by a process of chemical elimination round dead sponges or other organisms (p. 828). Mollusks and urchins have been completely silicified in the Chalk.

¹⁰⁷ See on Sponge spicules, papers by Prof. Sollas, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* ser. 5, vi. and memoirs by Dr. G. J. Hinde, "Fossil Sponge Spicules," Munich, 1880; "Cat. of Fossil Sponges, British Museum," 1883; *Phil. Trans.* vol. clxxvi. p. 403, 1886; "British Fossil Sponges," *Pal. Soc.* vols. xl. xli. 1887-88. The sponge spicules of the Upper Cretaceous rocks are very generally in the condition of amorphous or colloid silica; those of the Lower Cretaceous are frequently of crystalline silica.