tended through all Formations, from the Epoch of the Transition series to the present time.*

No fossil Stelleridans have yet been noticed in strata more ancient than the Muschel-kalk.

As the structure of the fossil species of both these families is so nearly identical with that of existing Echini, and Star-fishes, I shall confine my observations respecting fossil animals in the class of Echinoderms to a family which is of rare occurrence, excepting in a fossil state, and which seems to have prevailed most abundantly in the most ancient fossiliferous formations.

CRINOIDEANS.

Among the fossil families of the Radiated division of animals, the Geologist discovers one whose living analogues are seldom seen, and whose vast numerical extent and extraordinary beauty entitle it to peculiar consideration.

Successions of strata, each many feet in thickness, and many miles in extent, are often half made up of the calcareous skeletons of Encrinites. The Entrochal Marble of Derbyshire, and the Black rock in the cliffs of Carboniferous

* I found many years ago fossil Echinidans in the Carboniferous limestone of Ireland, near Donegal, they are however rare in the Transition formation, become more frequent in the Muschel-kalk and Lias, and abound throughout the Oolitic and Cretaceous formations.