

ness they could not have done it more effectually, for they were sporting about in every direction, sometimes expanding like a flower, then suddenly closing and partially retreating, and again extending themselves to their extreme dimensions.

14. DIVERSITY OF FORM AND STRUCTURE.— In the flustra, then, we have the elements of zoophytal organization, and all the varied and extraordinary forms which will hereafter come under our notice are but modifications of this type of animal existence. In some, the skeleton or support consists of earthy matter, as in the flustra, but solid and hard as adamant; in many examples it branches out like a tree; in others, constitutes hemispherical masses, having numerous convolutions on the surface somewhat resembling in appearance the brains of quadrupeds; and in some it forms an aggregation of tubes, terminating in star-like openings. Among the branched varieties, some are covered by pores so numerous as to be called *millepora*; in many, the openings are distant: some have star-like markings here and there; while in others, the whole surface presents a stellated structure. In many species the fleshy animal matter entirely covers and conceals the stony skeleton during life; in others, the latter becomes exposed, and forms a trunk, having branches covered by living polypi; while in another, and numerous division (of which the common *sertularia* is an example), the skeleton is secreted by the *outer* surface