

are more or less impressed with undulating lines, which are produced by the section of the inclosed zoophyte.

The chalk also abounds in zoophytes which present a close analogy to the recent alcyonia; these are animals having a fleshy or gelatinous substance, invested with a tough outer skin, the surface of which is covered with pores, each pore being the cell or receptacle of a polype, as in the flustra. In this drawing of a portion of a common species of alcyonium (*alcyonium gelatinosum*, Plate V. fig. 8), highly magnified, six polypi are shown in various states of protrusion from their respective cells. The *dead men's fingers*, as the *alcyonium digitatum* is commonly named, has a similar structure.* The alcyonia are permanently fixed by the base, and possess the rudiments of a skeleton, for many species have acicular, silicious spines; hence the name of sea-nettles given to those varieties which wound or sting on being handled.

In the *choanite*, a fossil zoophyte common in the chalk, and which is called petrified sea-anemone by collectors, crucial spines, resembling those of the recent alcyonia, may be detected. The choanite is of a sub-cylindrical form, with root-like processes, having a cavity or sac which is deep and small, in comparison to the bulk of the animal. The inner surface is studded with pores, which are

* See Dr. Johnston's beautiful and interesting work on British Zoophytes, Plate xxvi.