and although they abound in univalve shells not common in the cretaceous strata, yet a large proportion of the sponges, corals, echinites, and belemnites, are identical with those of the chalk. Mr. Lyell concludes "that the peculiarity of the fossil fauna of Faxoe * was produced more by geographical conditions, such, for example, as the local shallowness of that part of the cretaceous sea, than by any general change in the creatures inhabiting the ocean, effected in the period that may have intervened between the formation of the white chalk and the Faxoe limestone.†

35. FOSSIL INFUSORIA.—In the previous lecture (page 324), I noticed the occurrence of infusoria in the chalk flints; the subsequent microscopic investigations of Mr. Reade have shown that our flint nodules are almost entirely composed of the silicious skeletons of these infinitesimal beings, mingled with the shields of minute crustacea, the spines of alcyonia and other zoophytes, and the scales of fishes.‡ Among the most interesting of the specimens with which Mr. Reade has favoured me are two objects, which, although so minute as to be scarcely discernible by the unas-

* In Denmark; the locality where these beds are best displayed.

† Mr. Lyell on the Cretaceous Strata of the Islands of Seeland, and Moen; Geol. Trans. Vol. V. new series.

‡ See "Observations on some new Organic Remains in the Flint of Chalk," by the Rev. J. B. Reade, M.A. F.R.S.—*Annals of Natural History*, No. ix. 1838.