

*colouring matter*) of this species, and the frustules (shields or cases) are left as colourless as glass, and resist the action of fire."\*

The yellow, or ochreous scum observable in ponds, ditches, and stagnant pools, is an aggregation of animalcules, whose shells are ferruginous, and which are of such extreme minuteness, that one cubic inch must contain a billion of their cases or skeletons.

FOSSIL INFUSORIA, OR ANIMALCULITES.—From this notice of a few recent forms of Infusoria, we proceed to the investigation, not only of the fossil remains, which strictly belong to this class, but also of other minute animal organisms with which they are associated, and being invisible to the naked eye, will be conveniently examined under this section. These are the *Polythalamia* (*many-chambered shells*) and the *Foraminifera* (*covered with pores*), the siliceous and calcareous cases of animals bearing a general affinity to the Mollusca (commonly known as shell-fish), of whose fossil relics we shall treat in subsequent chapters.

In peat-bogs and swamps, both of modern and ancient date, masses of a white marly, or siliceous paste (*hydrate of silica*), are often observed, and these are wholly made up of the carapaces of infu-

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\* Trans. Amer. Assoc. Geolog. 1843, p. 152.