

inorganic particles are intermixed with the organisms. The merest pellicle or stain, left by the evaporation of a drop of water in which some of the marl has been mixed, teems with the most beautiful infusorial structures.

At Petersburg, in Virginia, an infusorial sandy marl occurs, interstratified with deposits which, from their shells, are referred to the older tertiary formations. Probably this marl is a continuation of that of Richmond, but it is full of many new forms, associated with those common in the earth of the latter locality. Dr. Bailey has favoured me with specimens which surpass, in the variety, elegance, and interest of their fossil contents, any infusorial deposits I have examined.*

Mr. Edwin Quekett, whose talents and acquirements as a naturalist are of the highest order, has detected in a recent state, attached to some zoophytes preserved in spirits, and brought from Melville Island by Sir Edward Parry, several discs resembling the *Coscinodiscus radiatus*, figured *Lign.* 48. These are in pairs, and there is no doubt that the fossil cases, like the recent, belonged to bivalve infusoria. Gaillonellæ, Pyxidiculæ, Naviculæ, and other forms resembling those of the Richmond earth, were also

* Dr. Bailey, with great liberality, has so amply supplied myself and other observers with specimens of this deposit for examination, that the fossils above described are now familiar to the British microscopists.