

weeds), and marine parasitic zoophytes, and infusoria; while the rocks below low-water mark, are covered with Balani (*barnacles*) and minute coralines, and the marine Flora is represented by vast quantities of very elegant sea plants."*

ANIMALCULITES OF THE CRETACEOUS FORMATION.—It has long been known, that a large proportion of the purest white chalk consists of minute chambered shells, and corals. Mr. Lonsdale, some years since, called attention to the subject, and showed that, by brushing chalk in water, and examining the residuary deposit, *Polythalamia*, *Foraminifera*, and *Polyparia*, might be obtained in great abundance. But the recent observations of M. Ehrenberg have demonstrated that even these atoms must be considered as colossal; and that each cubic inch of chalk may contain upwards of one million of well-preserved animalculites and shells. The larger species of these fossil bodies may be obtained from the sediment produced by brushing the chalk in cold water; but the entirely microscopic forms continue a long time suspended in the liquid, and can only be procured by a peculiar process, described at the end of this chapter.

Chalk, therefore, must be regarded as an aggregation of exceedingly minute organisms, and of

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