

the stratigraphical distribution of the fossil polyparia.

ON COLLECTING FOSSIL CORALS.—Few instructions are required for the collection of fossil zoophytes, for as the most important characters of the several kinds have been pointed out in the previous descriptions, the student will be able to select illustrative specimens for his cabinet. The minute corals, &c. of the Chalk, and other limestones, are to be obtained by the same process as that directed for the Infusoria, or animalculites. The large examples should be left attached to a piece of chalk, when practicable, and the surrounding stone removed with a knife or graver, so as to expose as much of the fossil as may be required for the display of its characters, without loosening its attachment to the block. When the investing chalk is very hard, frequently pencilling the specimen with vinegar, or dilute hydrochloric acid, will soften the stone, and render its removal easy, by means of a soft brush: when acid is employed, the specimen must afterwards be well rinsed in cold water.\*

The zoophytes that occur preserved partly in flint, and partly in chalk, as the Ventriculites, can

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\* It may be well to caution the collector against employing sulphuric acid (commonly called *oil of vitriol*) for this purpose, for a white insoluble deposit (sulphate of lime) will thus be formed on the specimen, and its appearance irremediably injured.