

p. 309. When living, this animal, like the other crinoideans, could expand its arms or tentacula in the form of a net, capture its prey, and convey it to the mouth.

The Marsupite is exceedingly interesting to the zoologist, for it forms a link that unites the true crinoideans with the star-fishes, called *Comatulæ*, which will be described in the next chapter. The figures we have given will serve to familiarize the student with the usual types ; for details of structure, Dr. Buckland's plates, and Miller's *Crinoidea*, should be consulted.

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This general survey of the Crinoideæ will prepare the collector for the incredible numbers of their remains that occur in some of the strata, particularly in the Oolite and Lias, and in the Carboniferous and Silurian, systems. The British species exceed one hundred and thirty ; and the stems, arms, and receptacles of each, present some peculiarities ; and when it is considered that the skeleton of an individual Lily Encrinite is composed of more than twenty-six thousand ossicula, or bones, and that of a single Pentacrinite of upwards of one hundred and fifty thousand, the number and variety of their fossil relics will no longer appear marvellous.