

gated into a proboscis. In the young state, the Comatulæ are attached by a jointed stem to other bodies, as shown in *Lign.* 69, fig. 1, which represents several of the natural size : fig. 1^a. is an enlarged view of an individual, and closely resembles an expanded Crinoidean. The stem is composed of about eighteen joints, which are pentangular. After a few weeks the Feather-star becomes detached from its peduncle, and ranges the sea in freedom.*

Four fossil species of Comatula have been discovered in the Solenhofen slate ; and it is not improbable that some of the numerous Crinoideans may be Stelleridæ in a young state.†

OPHIURA (*serpent-like Star-fish*) *Lign.* 73, fig. 1.—The Star-fishes thus denominated have very long, slender, serpentine rays, without grooves and tentacula. These rays are extremely flexuous, and in some species armed with spines, by which they

* The researches of J. V. Thompson, Esq. brought to light these interesting facts in the Natural History of the Comatula ; this eminent naturalist first discovered the pedunculated Comatulæ in the Cove of Cork.

† When the discovery of Mr. Thompson was first made known to me, I suspected that the Marsupite might have been pedunculated when young ; but as very small specimens are equally free from all traces of a peduncle as the adult, I was led to relinquish that opinion : still the collector should bear in mind the possibility of this having been the case, in searching for Crinoidean remains.