

blocks occur, like that of which a fragment is figured in *Lign.* 88. These examples of shelly limestones and sandstones now forming, will familiarize the student with the nature and origin of those ancient deposits of a similar character, which contain extinct species and genera of mollusca.

FOSSIL SHELLS OF THE BRACHIOPODOUS MOLLUSCA.—These are bivalve shells, of which nearly five hundred species are found in the British strata. They occur in incredible numbers in the ancient rocks, to which several genera are restricted; while some continue through all the formations, and inhabit the present seas; but the existing genera are few.

TEREBRATULA (*bored, alluding to the perforated beak*). *Lign.* 89.—The common species of this genus must be familiar to all who have ever looked into a quarry of Chalk, or Shanklin sand, in the south-east of England. They have been humourously called the *Fossil Aristocracy*, from the incalculable antiquity of their lineage.

The species are very numerous; those figured in *Lign.* 89 are from the White Chalk, and are beautifully preserved; even vestiges of the colour occasionally remain. In a living state, the animal is fixed to foreign bodies by a byssus, or peduncle, which is protruded through the opening in the