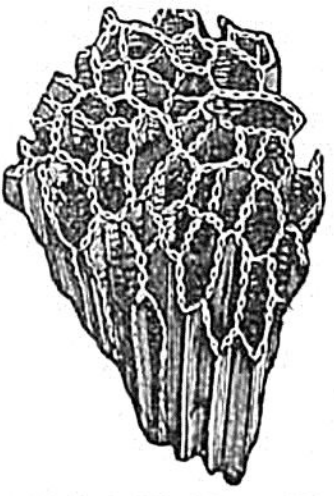
Wenlock formation.—We next come to the Wenlock formation, which has been divided (see Table, p. 430) into the Wenlock limestone and the Wenlock shale.

1. The Wenlock limestone, formerly well known to collectors by the name of the Dudley limestone, forms a continuous ridge in Shropshire, ranging for about 20 miles from S. W. to N. E., about a mile distant from the nearly parallel escarpment of the Aymestry limestone. This ridgy prominence is due to the solidity of the rock, and to the softness of the shales above and below it. Near Wenlock it consists of thick masses of gray subcrystalline limestone, replete with corals and encrinites. It is essentially of a concretionary nature, and the concretions, termed "ball-stones" in Shropshire, are often enormous, even 80 feet in diameter. They are of pure carbonate of lime, the surrounding rock being more or less argillaceous.* Sometimes in the Malvern Hills this limestone, according to Professor Phillips, is oolitic.

Fig. 579.



Halysites catenulatus, Linn. sp. Syn. *Catenipora escharoides*, Gold. Upper and Lower Silurian.

Among the corals in which this formation is so rich, the "chain-coral," *Halysites catenulatus*, or *Catenipora escharoides* (fig. 579), may be pointed out as one very easily recognized, and widely spread in Europe, ranging through all parts of the Silurian group, from the Aymestry limestone to near the bottom of the series. Another coral, the *Favosites Gothlandica* (fig. 580), is also met with in profusion in large hemispherical masses, which break up into prismatic fragments, like that here figured (fig. 580). Another common form in the Wenlock limestone is the *Omphyma* (fig. 581), which, like many of its companions, reminds us of some modern cup-corals, but all the Silurian genera belong to the paleozoic type before men-

Fig. 580.

Favosites Gothlandica, Lam. Dudley.
a. Portion of a large mass; less than the natural size.
b. Magnified portion to show the pores and the partitions in the tubes.

Fig. 581.

Omphyma turbinatum, Linn. sp. (*Cyathophyllum*, Goldf.) Wenlock Limestone, Shropshire.

* Murchison's Siluria, p. 115.