

and the numerous cavities or hollows with which their texture is honeycombed.

This grit, or *silex meulier*, is much used in Paris for the arches of cellars, underground conduits, sewers, &c.

The *Faluns* in the Paris basin consist of divers beds formed of shells and Corals, almost entirely broken up. In many parts of the country, and especially in the environs of Tours and Bordeaux, they are dug out for manuring the land. To the Falun series belong the fresh-water marl, limestone, and sand, which composed the celebrated mound of Sansan, near Auch, in the Department of Gers, in which M. Lartet found a considerable number of bones of Turtles, Birds, and especially Mammals, such as *Mastodon* and *Dinotherium*, together with a species of long-armed ape, which he named *Pithecius antiquus*, from the circumstance of its affording the earliest instance of the discovery of the remains of the quadrumana, or monkey-tribe, in Europe. Isolated masses of Faluns occur, also, near the mouth of the Loire and to the south of Tours, and in Brittany.



Fig. 173.—*Caryophylla cyathus*.