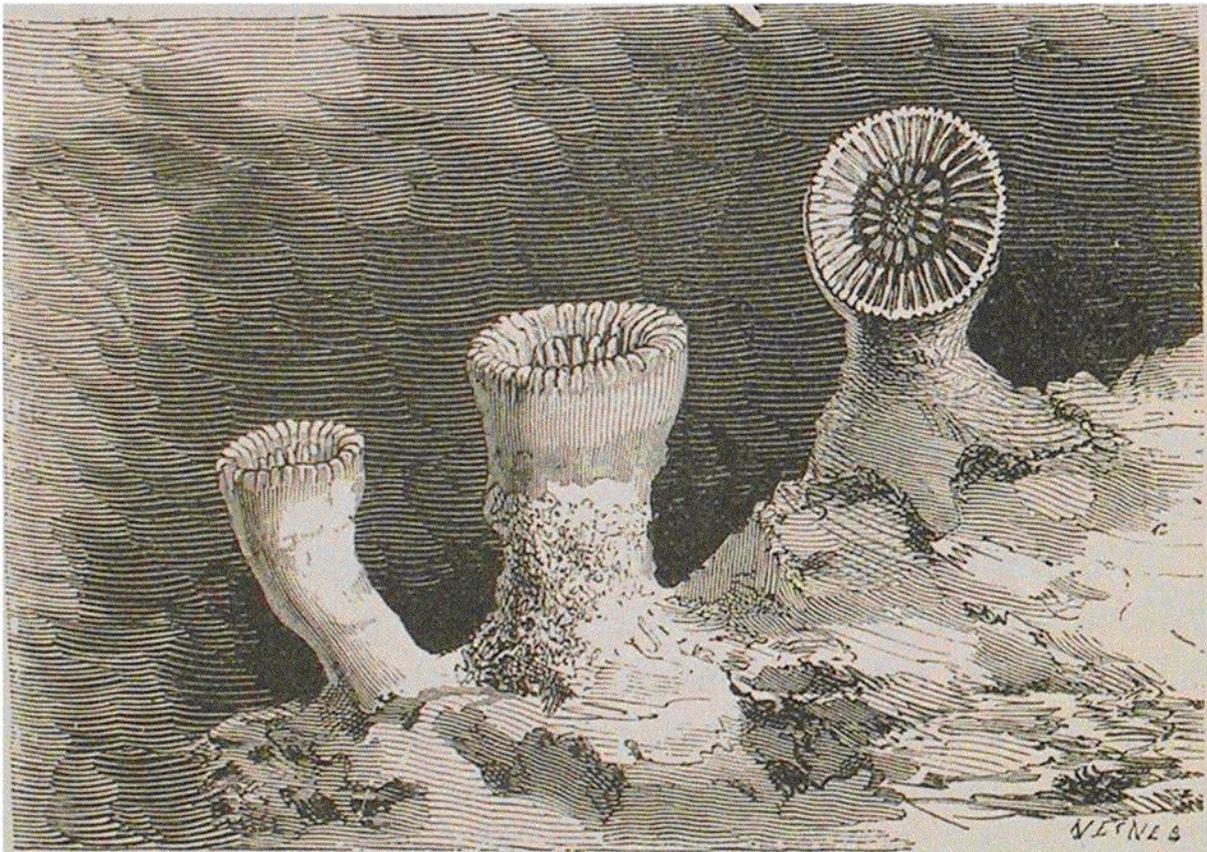


Each of these characters is evidence of the superior grade of this division of polyps.

II. CORAL-MAKING ACTINOID POLYPS.

Of the form, tentacles, mouth, stomach, fleshy septa, lasso-cells, food, digestion and respiration of the coral-making polyps here included, nothing need here be said, these characters being the same as in the Actiniæ. Their more striking peculiarities depend on the secretion of coral, making them fixed species, and involving an absence of the base; and, in the



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case of the majority of the species, on the extent to which they multiply by buds, in imitation of species in the vegetable kingdom.

The coral skeleton which the secretions of polyps form is called the *corallum*. These secretions take place among the tissues of the sides and lower part of the polyp, but never in the disk or stomach, as this would interfere with the functions of these organs. In the above sketches of a simple coral,