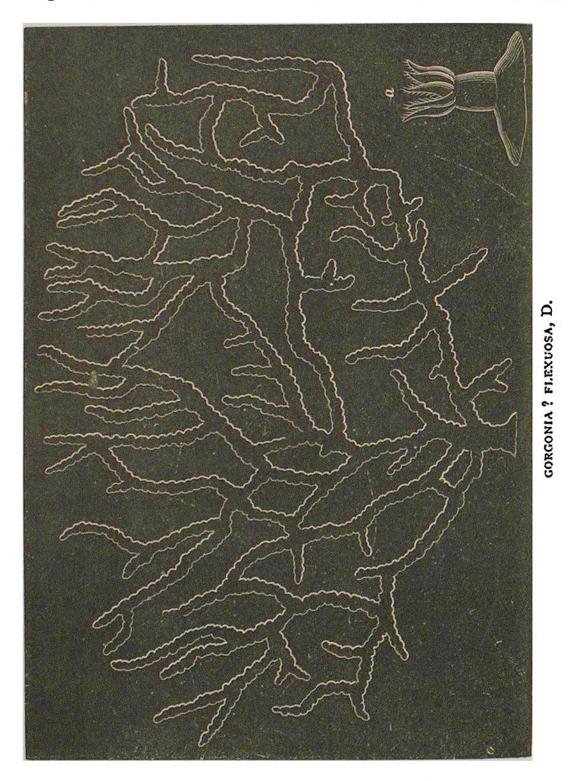
CORALS AND CORAL ISLANDS.

reticulation being a result of the coalescence of the branchlets. The general colour of the species was crimson; but when alive and expanded it was covered throughout with yellowish polyps



of the form in figure *a*, though much smaller, the natural size not exceeding a twelfth of an inch. The common sea-fan of the West Indies, *Gorgonia flabellum*, is much more finely reticulated, the meshes of the net-work being ordinarily not over