

growth of three to five inches, above referred to, might have been made during the three winter months.

Duchassaing (in *L'Institut*, 1846, p. 117) observes that in two months some large individuals of *Madrepora prolifera*, which he broke away, were restored to their original size. More definite and valuable is the observation of M. L. F. de Pourtales, that a specimen of *Mæandrina labyrinthica*, measuring a foot in diameter, and four inches thick in the most convex part, was taken from a block of concrete at Fort Jefferson, Tortugas, which had been in the water only twenty years. Again, Major E. B. Hunt mentions, in the *American Journal of Science* for 1863, the fact of the growth of a *Mæandrina* at Key West, Florida, to a radius of six inches in twelve years, showing an average upward increase in this hemispherical coral of half an inch a year, if, as is evidently implied, this radius was a vertical radius. Major Hunt deposited specimens of corals of his collection near Fort Taylor, Key West, in the Yale College Museum, and three of these are labelled by him as having grown to their present size between the years 1846 and 1860, or in fourteen years. Two are specimens of *Oculina diffusa*; one is a clump four inches high and eight broad; and the other has about the same height. The weight of the first of these clumps is forty-four ounces. The rate of four inches in fourteen years would be equal to about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  twelfths of an inch a year in height, or three and one-seventh ounces a year of solid coral. The other specimen is of the *Mæandrina clivosa* V.; it has a height of two-and-a-quarter inches, and a breadth of seven-and-a-half inches. This is equivalent to about a sixth of an inch of upward growth in fourteen years. The specimen weighs about eighteen ounces. It is not certain that with either of these specimens the germs commenced to grow the first year of this interval, and hence there is much doubt with regard to these calculations.

The following observations are from a paper read by Prof. Verrill before the Boston Society of Natural History in 1862. The wreck of a vessel, supposed to have been the British