

masses which are thrown ashore from time to time on the West Indian Islands.

Professor P. Martin Duncan has already published an account of the stony corals (the Madreporaria) of the cruise of the 'Porcupine' in 1869, and he has now in hand those procured off the coast of Portugal in 1870, some of which are of even greater interest from their close resemblance to certain cretaceous forms. Twelve species of stony corals were dredged in 1869.

*Caryophyllia borealis*, FLEMING (Fig. 4, p. 27), is very abundant at moderate depths, particularly along the west coast of Ireland, where many varieties are found. The greatest depth at which this species was dredged is 705 fathoms. It is found fossil in the miocene and pliocene beds of Sicily.

*Ceratocyathus ornatus*, SEGUENZA.—Of this pretty coral only a single specimen was taken in 705 fathoms, off the Butt of the Lews. It had not previously been known as a recent species, and was described by Seguenza from the Sicilian miocene tertiaries. *Flabellum laciniatum*, EDWARDS and HAIME, was frequent in water from 100 to 400 fathoms, from Færoe to Cape Clear. From the extreme thinness of the outer crust, this coral is excessively brittle; and although many hundreds came up in the dredge, scarcely half-a-dozen examples were entire. Another fine species of the same genus, *Flabellum distinctum* (Fig. 68), was dredged on several occasions off the Portuguese coast in 1870. The special interest attaching to this species, is that it appears to be identical with a form living in the seas of Japan.