

lately not more than twenty specimens had reached Europe, and of these only two showed all the joints and plates of the skeleton, and the soft parts were lost in all.

These two species belong to the genus *Pentacrinus*, which is well represented in the beds of the lias and oolite, and sparingly in the white chalk; and are named respectively *Pentacrinus asteria*, L., and *P. mülleri*, OERSTED. Fig. 70 represents the first of these. This species has been known in Europe since the year 1755, when a specimen was brought to Paris from the island of Martinique, and described by Guettard in the Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences. For the next hundred years an example turned up now and then from the Antilles. Ellis described one, now in the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow University, in the Philosophical Transactions for 1761. One or two found their way into the museums of Copenhagen, Bristol, and Paris; two into the British Museum; and one fortunately fell into the hands of the late Professor Johannes Müller of Berlin, who published an elaborate account of it in the Transactions of the Royal Berlin Academy for 1843. Within the last few years, Mr. Damon of Weymouth, a well-known collector of natural history objects, has procured several very good specimens, which are now lodged in the museums of Moscow, Melbourne, Liverpool, and London.

*Pentacrinus asteria* may be taken as the type of its order; I will therefore describe it briefly. The animal consists of two well-marked portions, a stem and a head. The stem, which is often from 40 to 60 centimetres in length, consists of a series of