

specimen,* consisted of a portion of a very large dead *Fungia*, to which were attached all over numerous nurse stocks in various stages of growth. Some of those in the specimens have only just developed from the attached larva, and have as yet thrown off no buds. A small cup-like Coral is formed, and as it grows the mouth of the cup widens and assumes somewhat the form of the adult disc-shaped free Coral, but is still distinctly cup-shaped. A line of separation forms in the stem of this bud, and the bud falls off; a fresh bud then starts from the centre of the scar left by it on the stock, and the process is repeated. The fresh bud in its growth does not spread its attachment over the whole surface of the old scar, the margins of which persist as a dead zone around its base.

The line of separation of the second bud does not correspond with that of the first, but is beyond it a short distance.

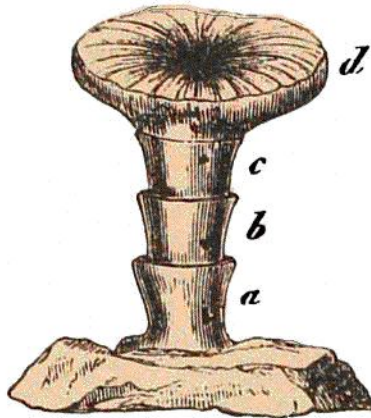
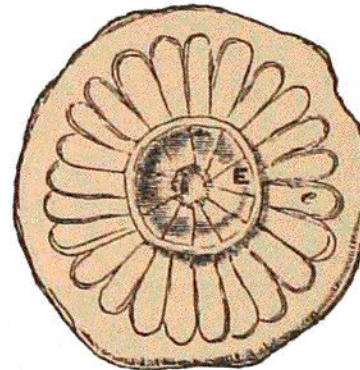


DIAGRAM REPRESENTING A NURSE STOCK OF THE MUSHROOM CORAL.

a b Successive joints of the stem which have each thrown off a free discoid coral; *d* young mushroom coral still attached to the last joint of the stock; *c* a transverse line marking where the present bud will separate.



ENLARGED VIEW OF THE SCAR LEFT ON THE END OF THE STOCK WHEN A YOUNG CORAL HAS BECOME DETACHED.

E Fresh discoid coral commencing to bud forth; *c* wide surrounding scar surface.

Hence, the nurse stem, which has thrown off several buds, is transversely jointed in appearance. Some of the stems in the specimen I found, showed thus three rings. Stutchbury imagined that each mother stock threw off only one bud, and then died. Semper showed that this was not the case; he speaks of three or four generations only being produced by each stock. Apparently the number produced is very limited. None of the stocks in my specimens were branched. A young Coral bud just ripe, $1\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch in diameter, dropped off one of the stocks as I lifted the specimen from the water. Beneath it, on the scar, another very small young *Fungia* had begun to

* G. Stutchbury, "An Account of the Mode of Growth of Young Corals of the Genus *Fungia*." Trans. Linn. Soc., Vol. XVII., 1830, p. 493.