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VIII.—Fossil coral allied to *Merulina* (Ehrenberg), from the Upper Greensand of Haldon Hill, near Exeter

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not that, whether recurved or extended, the presence of these arms serves this purpose?

Hence we have on the shores of Iceland, the south-east coast of Arabia, and the Cape of Good Hope, a similar kind of *Tethya*, all probably, certainly the two latter, fixed in the sandy bottom of the sea by similarly extended bundles of spicules, and all agreeing in possessing the minute bihamate spicules in great abundance.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE X. figs. 1-5.

Fig. 1. *Tethya dactyloidea*, Cart. Diagram of twisted bundle of anchor-headed spicules of the root: *a a*, anchor-heads.

Fig. 2. The same, anchor-head much magnified, to show its characteristic shape.

Fig. 3. The same, trifold or inæquifurcate head of spicule abundant in the tufts which project from the surface of the body.

Fig. 4. The same, form of acerate spicule.

Fig. 5. The same, bihamate spicules.

N.B. Figs. 2, 3, & 5 are relatively magnified on the scale of 1-24th to 1-4300th of an inch.

VIII.—*Fossil Coral allied to Merulina (Ehrenberg), from the Upper Greensand of Haldon Hill, near Exeter.* By W. VICARY, F.G.S.

[Plate X. fig. 6.]

Merulina?, n. sp.

Corallum composite, foliaceous, with the ridges rounded, reticulately coalescent. Septa serrulate and alternately larger. Ridges 1-20th of an inch wide; distance between them 1-35th of an inch; height of ridges 1-20th of an inch. Specimen fragmentary; natural size about one inch square. (Plate X. fig. 6, magnified a little more than two diameters.)

Loc. Upper Greensand, Haldon Hill, near Exeter, Devonshire.

Mineral composition siliceous.

Obs. The Haldon Hills are situated about five miles to the south-west of Exeter. Their base is composed of the New Red Sandstone; and they are capped by the Upper Greensand. The latter has been found to be prolific in species of corals, compared with the Greensand of other localities, since it contains ten species out of the sixteen which is the entire number stated by Dr. Duncan, in his "Monograph" published by the Palæontological Society, to have been found in this formation.

At Black Down, on the eastern borders of Devon, where

H.C. del.

Fig. 6.

J.F.L. photo.

Mudern Bros lith.

the beds are evidently of the same age as those of Haldon, only three species have been found. The Gasteropoda and Conchifera are nearly the same at both places, but only one species of coral, viz. *Favia stricta*.

In addition to the above-named number, *i. e.* "ten species," I have lately found the coral herewith figured, which I believe to be nearly allied to *Merulina*, if, indeed, it does not belong to that genus. Should this be the case, we shall then not only possess a new species from Haldon Hill, but a form that will assist the "Dredging-expedition" (although in a reverse direction) to supply a link between the past and the present forms.

IX.—*Descriptions of some Ceylonese Reptiles and Batrachians.*

By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

MR. G. H. K. THWAITES, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, has presented to the British Museum a very fine series of Reptiles, and especially Batrachians, which appear to have been collected chiefly in the neighbourhood of the locality named. It is only recently that we have received specimens from that central district, which is inhabited by many peculiar forms unknown in the littoral and best-explored parts of the island. The majority of the new Batrachians added by me on a former occasion (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1868, p. 478) to the fauna of Ceylon are again represented in this collection sent by Mr. Thwaites—for instance *Nannophrys*, which grows to a length of $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, *Ixalus femoralis*, *I. temporalis*, and *I. macropus*, *Polypedates reticulatus*, *P. nasutus*, and *P. cavirostris*. The three species of *Ceratophora* appear to be common, especially *C. aspera*, which varies considerably in the arrangement and development of the folds and tubercles; *Geckoëlla punctata* also inhabits this district. *Rhinophis punctatus*, *Rana (Hoplobatrachus) ceylanica* (Peters), and *Ixalus Schmardanus* (Kelaart)*, which I had never received before, are evidently scarce, as only two examples of the first and one of the two latter were in the collection. But our knowledge of the reptilian fauna of this island is evidently still far from being complete, nearly every collection containing some new forms; and particular attention should be paid to the small burrowing snakes or snake-like lizards, and to frogs.

Mr. Thwaites's collection contained the following new species:—

* Three other, very fine, examples have been recently obtained by Mr. Holdsworth.