

The two radiate calcareous structures are in reality widely different in nature. In the Anthozoan coral, each radiate system is the skeleton of one polyp animal like a single Sea Anemone, and the radiating plates of calcareous matter in the coral cup are supports developed inside the body of this single polyp. In the cyclo-system of the *Stylasterid*, on the other hand, a large number of polyps are lodged, namely a single gastrozoid and numerous dactylozoids.

The radiating plates of the cyclo-system, so like the septa of

—Anthozoan corals, are formed of the walls of the mouths of the dactylozoids pressed against one another as they are closely packed together in a ring round the gastropore, and thus flattened out by mutual appressure. The clongate or groove-like form of the mouths of the pores is also to a large extent brought about by the manner in which the dactylozoids are doubled up within them when in the retracted condition.

The accompanying figure represents a small part of the skeleton or coral of a stock of *Astylus subviridis*, enlarged to twice the natural size. The cyclo-systems, one of which is shown as a diagram in Fig. 6 of the preceding woodcut, are here seen placed at intervals along the branches of the coral.



PORTION OF A SPECIMEN OF
THE CORAL OF *ASTYLUS*
SUBVIRIDIS.

Showing the cyclo-systems placed at intervals on the branches, each with a central gastropore and zone of slit-like dactylopores.

Still further complexity, however, in the cyclo-systems of the genus *Astylus* remains to be described. The figure on the opposite page shows one of the systems cut through vertically to display the arrangements within. The gastropore has two chambers, an upper and lower. The lower, in which the

gastrozoid, which in this genus is a mere flask-shaped stomach sac devoid of tentacles, is lodged, communicates with the upper by a narrowed horseshoe-shaped opening, which is more plainly seen from above in the diagram, Fig. 6, already referred to. The opening is rendered horseshoe-shaped by the projection from one side of it across the aperture of a small tongue-shaped excrescence of hard coral. This projection no doubt serves to protect the polyp from injury.