

II.—DESCRIPTION OF THE GENERA AND SPECIES.

Sub-kingdom—CŒLEENTERATA.

Class—ACTINOZOA.

Obs.—One of the most remarkable features in connection with the Permo-Carboniferous Fauna of New South Wales is the great numerical and specific development attained by certain groups of animal life, to the marked, although not total exclusion of others. In no class is this more apparent than the present. In extra-Australian areas, more particularly Europe, side by side with a teeming Molluscan life, a moderately prevalent Crustacean, and a vigorous development of Echinodermata, we find the remains of an equally prevalent Coral fauna during the Carboniferous.

On the other hand, during an equivalent period in New South Wales, and indeed throughout Australia generally, the Actinozoa dwindled to a comparatively insignificant factor. That this was not the case in Præ-Carboniferous times is quite apparent, as a glance at the rich Coral fauna of the Silurian and Siluro-Devonian rocks of this Province will show.

Should future researches support this view, we can only adopt the conclusion that coral life at this particular period, in what is now New South Wales, was gradually dwindling, as it also did during the closing epoch of the Palæozoic Period in other quarters of the globe.

The remains of corals, even when recorded, have been but indifferently preserved and scanty in numbers. This seems to hold good in all cases, except those of the genera *Stenopora*, representing the Monticuliporidæ, and