

There still remains some doubt as to the cup and epidermis. Granting that the cavity at the small end is natural and not caused by the destruction of the septa in the central tube, then *Beatricea* has all the essential organic parts which constitute a genus of corals allied to *Cystiphyllum*. This may be seen by comparing figs. 2, 3, above. The most remarkable differences are, the great size of the individuals, and the disposition of the cells in the outer layers of vesicular tissue. In *Cystiphyllum* the convex sides of the cells of the walls of the cup are always turned inwards, or sloping upwards and inwards. In *Beatricea* the reverse of this is the case.

As above stated, *Beatricea* was first made known by the specimens collected by J. Richardson, in 1856. It was afterwards, in 1858, found by the same geologist and Prof. R. Bell, at Lake St. John, on the river Saguenay. Mr. Bell has also collected fine specimens on Rabbit and Club Islands, in Lake Huron. There is a specimen in the Museum of the Geological Society of London that was brought from Anticosti, by Admiral Bayfield, many years ago. Mr. Hyatt says that Prof. J. D. Dana has some fragments of a species resembling *B. undulata* from Kentucky. Its geological range, so far as it is at present known, is from the Hudson River formation up to the Clinton.

NOTES ON THE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT BIRMINGHAM, 1865.

In approaching Birmingham from the west, the visitor learns to appreciate the appellation 'black country,' which has long been enjoyed by the Staffordshire coal districts and their neighborhood. The smoke of hundreds of collieries and furnaces and foundries darkens the air; the green fields give place for miles together to piles of coal, cinders and ashes; and in some places the eye can discern, as far as the murky atmosphere will allow it to penetrate, no green thing. In the day, the aspect of the land is dark and lowering; in the night it brightens with the glow of innumerable furnace fires. It is a pity that the green face of nature cannot be preserved where men toil to extract wealth out of the bowels of the earth; but when both ends cannot be secured, the greater number of people can be supported by thus defacing the aspect of nature. The black country is thus, by virtue of its coal and iron, densely populous, greatly thriving, and a chief abode of manu-