

Fig. 67.



Fig. 68.

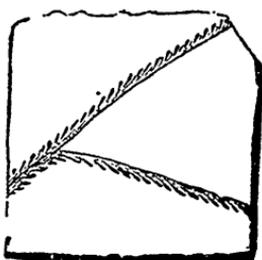


Fig. 69.

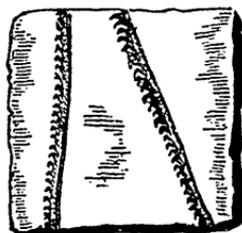


Fig. 70.

*Corals proper* :—The animal substance of corals consists of a soft gelatinous mass containing one or many digestive sacks or stomachs, each provided at the opening or upper part with a number of retractile tentacles. These sacks with their tentacles are technically known as “polyps.” The gelatinous mass possesses likewise (in the majority of cases) the power of secreting, amidst its tissues a calcareous or horny framework, the “coral” of popular language. As a general rule, this secreted solid portion consists of one or more cavities or cells, in and around which the organized fleshy sack or polyp is contained. This, however, is not always the case. Sometimes, as in the celebrated “Red Coral” of the Mediterranean, the polyp-cavity is fashioned in the midst of the gelatinous matter, without any corresponding cavities in the support. When cells occur in this support or “corallum,” they exhibit either a round, oval, or polygonal opening; and, if more than one in number, they are either in juxtaposition, or connected by short transverse tubes, or by a mass of more or less porous tissue called “cœnenchyme.” The cell is sometimes smooth