FOSSOPORA, A NEW GENUS OF PALÆOZOIC PERFORATE CORALS.

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(Plates i., ii.)

The compound corallum is in the form of lobate masses of medium size, and is composed of very small prismatic and polygonal corallites, firmly united by their walls, divided into well-defined peripheral and axial portions, the corallites in the former being more or less vertical, and in the latter gradually bent or inclined outwards to the surface. In consequence of the specimen being wholly included in matrix the appearance of the corallites at the surface of the corallum, or terminal period of growth, has not been studied, nor is the method of attachment known.

It is proposed to term this coral *Fossopora*[1] *wellingtonensis*[2].

The firmly united polygonal corallites are long, and chiefly hexagonal and pentagonal, but their regularity of outline, from causes to be described later, frequently becomes lost. The average diameter is as near as possible half a millimetre, or two calices in the space of one millimetre. The firmly united, or rather indistinguishably amalgamated walls in the axial region are sufficiently thickened to sometimes obliterate the prismatic form, but in the peripheral area stereoplasmic matter has been added to such an extent as to almost conceal all other points of structure.

In a transverse section prepared for the microscope the small size of the corallites is at once seen, and the polygonal outline generally so. It also becomes evident that neighbouring tubes are placed in communication by large mural pores. In places this perforation predominates to such an extent that the structure practically becomes cribriform, and through this the outline of the corallites is also sensibly interfered with.

The septa are very apparent, invariably six in number, projecting inwards towards the centres of the visceral cham-

[1] *Fossa*, æ a channel or trench.

[2] In allusion to the locality.