

THE OCCURENCE OF *PISOCRINUS* OR AN ALLIED
GENUS, IN THE UPPER SILURIAN ROCKS
OF THE YASS DISTRICT.

By R. ETHERIDGE, Junr., Curator.

(Plate xxxvii.)

Some months since Mr. A. J. Shearsby, a valued correspondent, and contributor to the Museum collections, forwarded a large number of small Crinoid calyces, etc., collected from a bed of shale at two localities in the Yass District. These calyces I believe to be referable to De Koninck's genus *Pisocrinus*, and purpose describing them as *P. (?) yassensis*.

Our knowledge of the Lower Palæozoic Crinoidea, not only of New South Wales, but indeed of Australia generally is very limited. It may be summed up in the descriptions of three species; and some indefinite references to stem ossicles by Blandowski, Selwyn, and Smyth, which need only be mentioned as a matter of history. The latter may be referred to first:—

Mr. W. von Blandowski, at one time Curator of the National (or, as it was then called, the Museum of Natural History) Museum, Melbourne, briefly recorded "Fossil Animalculæ in the Primitive Rocks from the Upper Yarra District."¹ The specimens were collected by Mr. F. Acheson on the left bank of Anderson's Creek, about one mile from its junction with the Yarra, and consisted of Crinoid stem-joints, Polyzoa, and Molluscan casts. The stem-joints were referred to "*Cyathocrinites* probably *pinnatus*" but the figures given on an accompanying plate,² lead to the belief that two distinct forms were found. On the same plate other crinoidal fragments are represented³ from the quartzose sandstone of the Heathcote, (McIvor) gold-field. Subsequently Dr. (then Mr.) A. R. C. Selwyn, in a list of Victorian Palæozoic fossils, mentioned⁴ the occurrence of *Actinoerinus* and *Cyathocrinus* at Watson's Creek, Upper Yarra District. Selwyn's records were repeated by Dr. J. J. Bigsby in his *Thesaurus Siluricus*,⁵ and *Actinoerinus* stems

¹ Blandowski—Trans. Phil. Soc. Vict., i., 1855, p. 122, plate; Personal Observations in Victoria, 1855, p. 27.

² Blandowski—Trans. Phil. Soc. Vict., i., 1855, pl. figs. 309, 310.

³ Blandowski—*loc. cit.*, pl. figs. 311, &c.,

⁴ Selwyn—Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., xiv., 1858, p. 538.

⁵ Bigsby—*Thesaurus Siluricus*, 1868, pp. 18 and 19.