

distinct on the marginal parts, close, thin, and regularly arranged in parallel lines; but which, as the growth proceeds, become gradually thicker and closer, and eventually fuse to form a broad, rounded, solid wall. The costal area is also peculiar owing to the sub-concentric sharp edges which mark it, and which would appear to have been produced by separate periods of growth.

Through this form the genus *Agaricia* is closely related to *Siderastræa*.

Locality.—Levuka.

Family CYCLOSERIDÆ.

Genus 1. *Cycloseris*, Milne-Edwards and Haime.

Cycloseris et *Diaseris*, Milne-Edwards and Haime, Cor., iii. pp. 49, 54.

„ „ Duncan, Rev. Madrep., pp. 149, 150.

I have placed *Diaseris* as a synonym of *Cycloseris*, since I am convinced that the curious forms which have been referred to that genus are nothing more than broken pieces of specimens of *Cycloseris*, which in this broken condition have continued living, and have, in part or wholly, repaired the injury.

The early view which was held by Milne-Edwards and Haime as to the constitution and formation of these curious forms, namely, that in the young state the specimens have the form of separate pieces or lobes, and that these unite irregularly during growth, has long ago been proved by Semper to be untenable; and indeed one is inclined to wonder that such an opinion, with all that it implies for the formation of those structures, should have been advanced by such writers as Milne-Edwards and Haime.

Tenison-Woods has already noticed the extremely close relationship between the two genera, though the formation of the specimens of the so-called *Diaseris* did not strike his attention.

Specimens in the Challenger collection and in the collection of the British Museum show well the different shapes and degrees of growth of the forms; and in the Challenger collection occur two perfect specimens of *Cycloseris* (*Diaseris*) *freycineti*.

Owing to the thinness and delicacy of the small and large specimens of the greater number of the recent species of *Cycloseris*, and especially owing to the thinness of the wall, such specimens would be very easily broken, whether by the action of various animals or by the play of winds and waves; a liability which is much increased by the fact that these delicate corals are not attached—at any rate not except, perhaps, in their very young stages. And this seems to me sufficient to account for the fact that so large a proportion of distorted and mended or broken specimens are found in comparison with the perfect specimens.

Such reparation of injury is very common among the Fungidæ; and injury to the