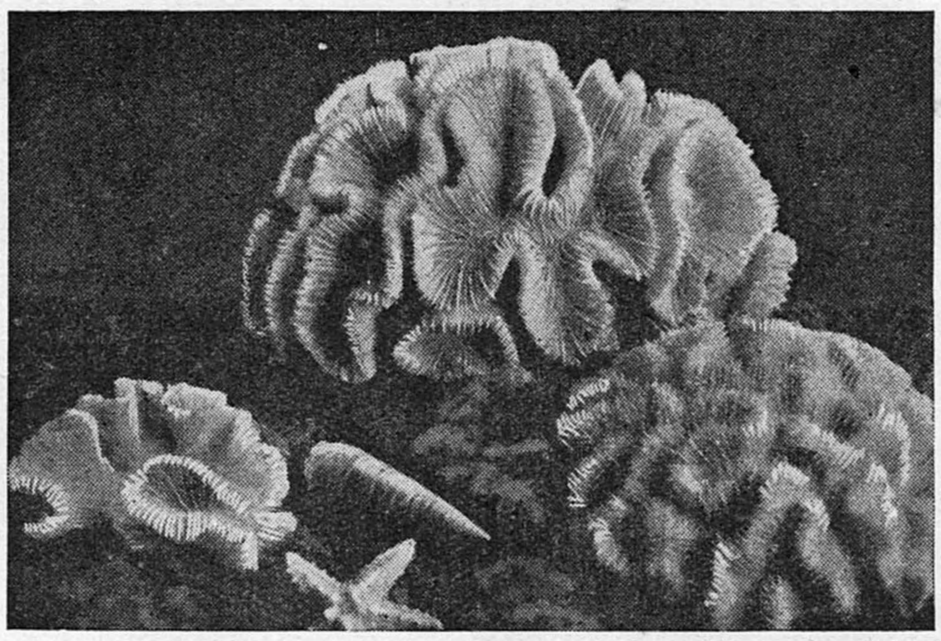
rock or a piece of dead coral and begins to live like a plant, having lost its power of moving from place to place. Indeed, corals were thought for a long time to be sea-flowers.

As a coral develops, little feelers like petals appear about the mouth. Day by day, stretching out these tender arms, the polyp catches and feeds upon the tiny organisms floating in the sea, and builds a solid skeleton with secretions of lime. A few kinds of coral continue to live as solitary individuals, but most of them live in vast colonies of many thousands of polyps so closely connected that you cannot see where one individual leaves off and another begins. The parent polyp produces little buds which develop feelers and stomachs of their own, and these in turn produce new buds—all remaining joined together into one great family—sometimes living for hundreds of years.

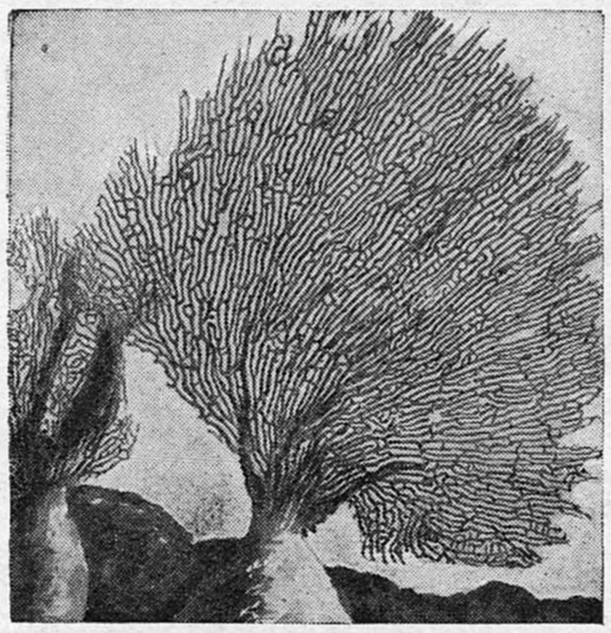
SPECIMENS OF LEAF CORAL



Coral takes many shapes, the Leaf Coral being one of numerous wonderful formations. In the centre is a splendid specimen of the Noble Leaf variety.

Year by year coral skeletons accumulate, cementing together in one mass, until after centuries new land is formed consisting of the skeletons of billions of dead polyps. Fresh colonies are being continually formed by eggs which hatch and escape from the mouth of the parents and float off to attach themselves elsewhere. The flesh or living part of most coral is orange-yellow in colour, although the limy skeleton is pure white.

THE FAN CORAL



Another beautiful variety is the Fan Coral, which waves about in the water just like a brightly coloured palm leaf.

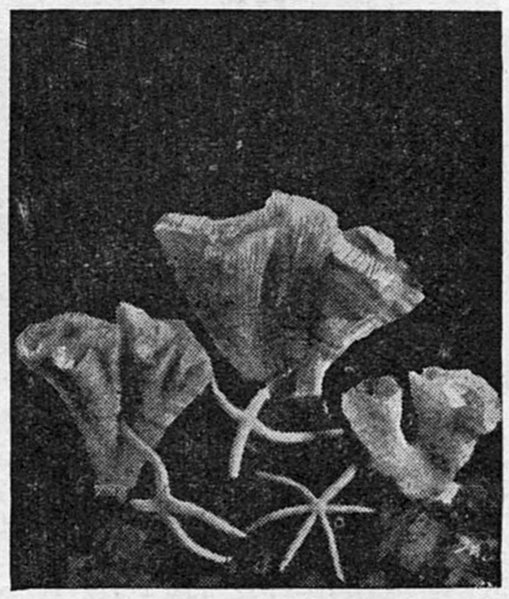
Coral islands and reefs are most numerous in the warmer portions of the Pacific and in the Indian Ocean, occurring to a less extent in the Gulf of Mexico and along the shores of the West Indies. According to their various forms, they belong to three classes. "Barrier reefs" lie at some distance from the land, the space between being filled by a shallow lagoon of salt water. Usually some parts of the reef rise above the ocean as islets, supporting a scanty vegetation, while the greater part is submerged. The Great Barrier Reef of Australia, over 1,000 miles long and 10 to 90 miles in breadth, is an illustration of this type. "Atolls" are not attached to any visible land. They are circular in shape, surrounding a central lagoon of placid transparent water. When, as usually happens, there are passages through the reefs, they form an excellent harbour for ships during a storm. "Fringing reefs" simply skirt the coast-line and extend the beaches.

Corals are closely related to the sea anemones, belonging to the class *Anthozoa* of the division *Cœlenterata*. Often assisting much in the formation of coral islands are lime-forming sea-weeds, as well as other polyps of the class *Hydrozoa*.

CORINTH, GREECE. No other city in ancient Greece held so commanding a position as Corinth, for it was situated on the Isthmus of Corinth, the narrow neck of land connecting northern Greece and the Peloponnesus, and between the two gulfs, the Corinthian on the west and the Saronic (or Gulf of Ægina) on the east.

The Corinthians were for long the leading naval power of Greece, and one of the foremost colonizing states, founding among others the famous colony of Syracuse on the island of Sicily. Corinth was also noted for its extensive commerce and its manufactures; its richly ornamented vases and metal-ware were exported to many lands. The most ornate order of Greek architecture is appropriately called "Corinthian," and was said to have been invented by a Corinthian architect, after seeing a basket up-turned amid acanthus leaves (*see* Architecture). But wealth brought luxury, and with luxury came vice.

STAG'S HORN CORAL



It is easy to see how this variety gets its name, for there is certainly a resemblance to a stag's horns.

The Romans destroyed Corinth after crushing an uprising in 146 B.C., and carried away many of its art treasures. A hundred years later it was rebuilt by Julius Cæsar and again became a great trading centre. The apostle Paul came as