

the Jurassic period, when they were represented by many fine species of the genera *Apiocrinus* and *Millericrinus*. The chalk genus *Bourguetticrinus* shows many symptoms of degeneracy. The head is small, and the arms are small and short. The arm-joints are so minute that it is scarcely possible to make up a series from the fragments scattered through the chalk in the neighbourhood of a cluster of heads. The stem, on the other hand, is disproportionately large and long, and one is led to suspect that the animal was nourished chiefly by the general surface absorption of organic matter, and that the head and special assimilative organs were principally concerned in the function of reproduction. *Rhizocrinus loffotensis*, M. Sars (Fig. 72), was discovered in the year 1864, at a depth of about 300 fathoms, off the Loffoten islands, by G. O. Sars, a son of the celebrated Professor of Natural History in the University of Christiania by whom it was described in the year 1868. It is obviously a form of the Apio-crinidæ still more degraded than *Bourguetticrinus*, which it closely resembles. The stem is long and of considerable thickness in proportion to the size of the head. The joints of the stem are individually long and dice-box shaped, and between the joints spaces are left on either side of the stem alternately, as in *Bourguetticrinus* and in the pentacrinoid of *Antedon*, for the insertion of fascicles of contractile fibres. Towards the base of the stem branches spring from the upper part of the joints; and these, each composed of a succession of gradually diminishing joints, divide and re-divide into a bunch of fibres, which frequently expand at the ends into thin