

representatives of this group, until now supposed to be on the verge of extinction, and that all the known species are from depths beyond the limit of ordinary dredging, we are led to anticipate that crinoids may probably form rather an important element in the abyssal fauna.



FIG. 74.—*Archaster bifrons*, WYVILLE THOMSON. Oral aspect. Three-fourths the natural size. (No. 57, 1869.)

The general distribution of the deep-sea Asteridea has already been referred to. Perhaps the most obvious peculiarity which they present is the great preponderance of the genera *Astrogonium*, *Archaster*, *Astropecten*, and their allies. Genera belonging to other groups do not apparently become less