

*Hymenaster* found the eggs beneath the membrane in the angles of the arms, and, in a more advanced stage, congregated in the central tent, but never under circumstances such that I

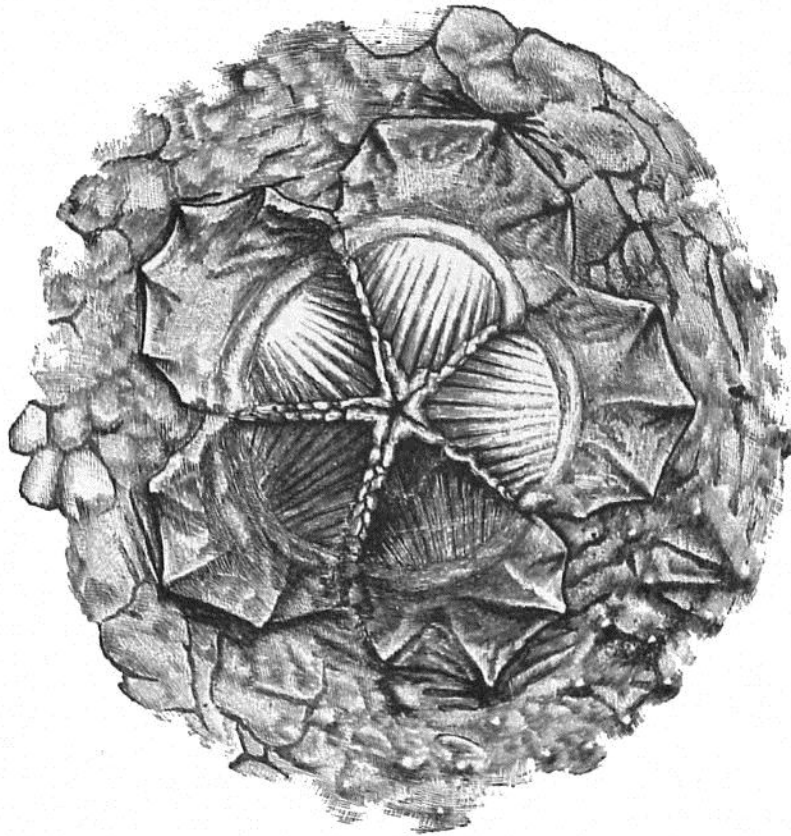


FIG. 49.—*Hymenaster nobilis*. The marsupial tent with the valves closed. Twice the natural size.

could keep and examine them. Exposed or loosely covered eggs or embryos, or any soft and pulpy organs or appendages, are always in a half-disintegrated state when they are brought up from such great depths, if they have not been entirely washed away.

As I have already said, *Hymenaster* is closely allied to *Pteraster*; the arrangements of the marsupium are nearly the same in both; and it is highly probable that, in *Hymenaster*, as in *P. militaris*, a provisional alimentary tract may be developed in the early stages of the embryo.

There are several fine species of *Hymenaster* within reach of British naturalists in the deep water at the entrance of the Channel and off Cape Clear; but I fear there will be great difficulty in determining this point unless the genus turn up