remained on the floor of the central chamber, in which the eggs or the young had evidently been lodged. I have on three occasions in species of the genus *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 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 *Pteraster militaris*, a provisional alimentary tract may be developed in the early stages of the embryo.

FIG. 149.—*Hymenaster nobilis*, Wyv. Thoms. The marsupial tent with the valves closed. Twice the natural size.

"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 somewhere in shallower soundings where specimens can be taken alive.

"In Stanley Harbour, on the roots of *Macrocystis*, and also brought up free by the dredge, there were numerous examples of an Ophiurid which appears to correspond with *Ophiacantha vivipara*, Ljungman; we had previously got either the same or a very closely allied form in great abundance in the fjords of Kerguelen. The Kerguelen variety has been noticed by Mr. Edgar A. Smith,[1] under the name of *Ophioglypha hexactis*, and I have called it, provisionally, in a paper in the Proceedings of the Linnæan Society, *Ophiocoma didelphis*, from its opossum-like habit of carrying its young upon its back.

[1] *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. xvii. p. 3, 1876.