

The growth, which is of a most beautiful pearly aspect, completely covers the valve of a *Terebratula*, the zoecia being disposed in parallel linear series, radiating irregularly from the centre.

The only difference of any importance between this form and the typical *Lepralia* (*Mucronella*) *ventricosa* is in its having eight oral spines instead of four. In this respect it corresponds with Mr. Hincks' *Lepralia* (*Mucronella*) *peachii* var.  $\beta$  *octodentata* with which indeed it is in all probability identical. But that it is a form of *Mucronella ventricosa* and not of *Mucronella peachii* is obvious from the other characters, amongst which perhaps the most important is the great width of the internal denticle. The great convexity also of the zoecia and the deep sulci between them, together with the forward position of the oecium and the peculiar radiate sculpturing of the surface of the zoecia and their large size, seem to be sufficient to show that the present form should be referred to *Mucronella ventricosa*. One remarkable feature presented by it is the extreme diversity in size of the zoecia; the central ones being perhaps less than half the size of those at some distance from the centre of the colony. It also exhibits in a very marked degree the great changes undergone at different stages by the peristome, which, in *Mucronella ventricosa*, as Dr. Manzoni remarks, "e tanto più largo et calloso, quanto più la cellula e avanzata in età."

### 8. *Aspidostoma*, Hincks.

*Eschara* (sp.), Bk.

*Character*.—Zoarium dimorphous, uni- or bi-laminar; erect, solid, rising from a contracted calcareous base, or expanded and foliaceous. Zoecia with the front depressed in the centre and the sides tumid. Mouth quite at the summit of the depressed area, concealed under the tumid border, on which above the mouth is a penthouse-like, usually bifid projection. The mouth arched above, straight below, and protected in front by a broad shield-like plate or mucro which is continued downwards for some distance within the zoecium.

*Aspidostoma giganteum*, Busk, sp. (Pl. XXXIII. fig. 3).

*Eschara gigantea*, Bk., Brit. Mus. Cat., vol. i. p. 91, pl. cxix. fig. 3.

*Aspidostoma crassum*, Hincks, Contrib. Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. vii. p. 47, pl. x. figs. 6, 6a, 1881.

*Character*.—Zoarium erect, bi- or uni-laminar. Zoecia broadly pyriform or hexagonal, very convex or tumid in front, depressed in the centre. Surface granular, walls very thick and massive, rounded on the sides; separated by deep sulci. Mouth quite at the summit of the depressed area concealed under the tumid border, crescentic