

arrangement in pairs, it seems most probable that they use them in the same manner as the more highly organised animals commonly do their limbs. Besides, there is no doubt that these animals, with their large and powerful pedicels, are able to move more rapidly and to dig easily into the soft ooze or clay of the bottom of the deep sea.

“What is the use of the very large and characteristic processes or lobes situated on the dorsal surface? The correct answer to this question is very difficult to give, but many things—especially the unusual abundance of nerves in them—seem to prove that they perform the function of tactile organs. There is much reason to believe that these organs are particularly suited to bring the animals into relation with surrounding bodies.

“The tentacles, like those in the *Aspidochirotæ*, are so slightly modified as to constitute



FIG. 111.—*Scotoplanes globosa*, Théel.

a disk with some larger or smaller processes, supported by a stem; thus, their shape in general proves that they do not perform the function of prehensile organs in the same manner as, for instance, those in the *Dendrochirota*, which use their thread-like branched tentacles to collect the proper food, and to bring it into the mouth. It seems most probable that the *Elasipoda* move along the bottom of the ocean with the mouth open, thus perpetually filling the alimentary canal with *Globigerina* ooze, Diatom ooze, clay or mud, in which operation the tentacles assist. The whole alimentary canal, from mouth to anus, is always filled up and highly distended by such matters, of which only a small portion can be used as food, while the rest must be pressed out through the posterior aperture at the same time as new materials are taken in.

“It is an already well known fact that the various tissues composing the body