

The whole abactinal area is covered with large subcircular or irregularly oval plates, perforated throughout with circular holes; the drawing of the larval plates of another form on Pl. XXVI. fig. 6 indicates their character. The primary apical plates are large and very distinct; their relative proportions and arrangement will be better understood by a glance at the accompanying woodcut than by a lengthy verbal description. The sketch was made by myself with a camera lucida, and represents the exact form and position of the plates as seen under the microscope, without the slightest subsequent alteration or attempt at diagram-making. The large dorso-central (1) and the proximal cycle of five large contingent plates (2, 2) are most conspicuous. The latter are radial in position, and appear to me to be the representatives of the under-basals of a Crinoid. If this view be correct their size and development is very remarkable. It also seems to be somewhat at variance with what is generally the order and proportion of development in other Asterids,¹ though hardly enough is known at present about the early stages of the group as a whole to warrant any dogmatic and positive statements to be formulated. External to the cycle of under-basals (2, 2) are five small circular plates (3, 3), interradial in position, and hence homologous with the basal plates. These plates have quite a different aspect from any of the others, and are much stronger and more compact in their structure. The radial plates are separated from the basals and from the under-basals by two or sometimes three intermediate plates, and can scarcely be distinguished by their size from the general plating. The abactinal interradial areas are almost devoid of plates, only a few isolated and very small ones being present. They appear to be the plates which bear spinelets, and they show a tendency to become crowded towards the margin, near the cribriform organ. In the centre of the disk is a small space, enclosed by the dorso-central and four under-basal plates, occupied by membrane, and from this springs the small but elongate tubular anal funnel.

The madreporiform body is at the extreme margin, and is embraced as it were by the cribriform organ. There is one cribriform organ in each interbrachial arc; these are already well developed, and have about two rows of modified spinelets on each side of the interradial sutural line, which will ultimately form "lamellæ."

There are four supero-marginal plates between the median interradial line and the terminal plate, the one next to the terminal being much smaller than the others, and all except the one next the terminal are longer than high. The infero-marginal plates are very low, but subequal in length to their companion supero-marginal plate; in comparison with these, they appear mere band-like strips, and this circumstance might probably lead M. Perrier² to think that only one series of marginal plates was present in the examples he described under the name of *Caulaster pedunculatus*, if the same dispro-

¹ On the Homologies of the Primary Larval Plates of Brachiote Echinoderms; *Quart. Journ. Micr. Sci.*, 1884, n. s., vol. xxiv. p. 29.

² *Comptes rendus* (Dec. 1882), t. xciv. p. 1380.