

sub-ovate form, having the mouth, which was surrounded by arms, or tentacula, in the centre. The skeleton was composed of crustaceous, hexagonal plates, and the arms, which are subdivided into numerous branches, were formed of ossicula, or little bones; the whole was invested with a muscular tissue, or membrane. When floating, the creature could spread out the tentacula like a net, and by closing them, seize its prey and convey it to the mouth. This figure (Tab. 51) is restored from specimens which separately exhibit the parts here represented.

*Asteriæ*, or *star-fish*, are occasionally found in great perfection in the chalk; my friend, the Rev. Thomas Cooke, has discovered several remarkably fine impressions in flint, on the South Downs, near Brighton. The whetstone of Devonshire affords similar remains.

16. ECHINITES.—Those remarkable animals, the echini, or sea-urchins, are too well known to require minute description. Their spherical shell, or skeleton, is made up of polygonal plates, closely fitted to each other; and the surface is divided vertically, by bands like the meridians of a globe, having rows of double perforations. The shell is studded over with papillæ, which vary in size, in the different species, from mere granular points to large well-defined tubercles. To these papillæ, spines are attached, which also present great variety of figure and decoration. These are the instruments