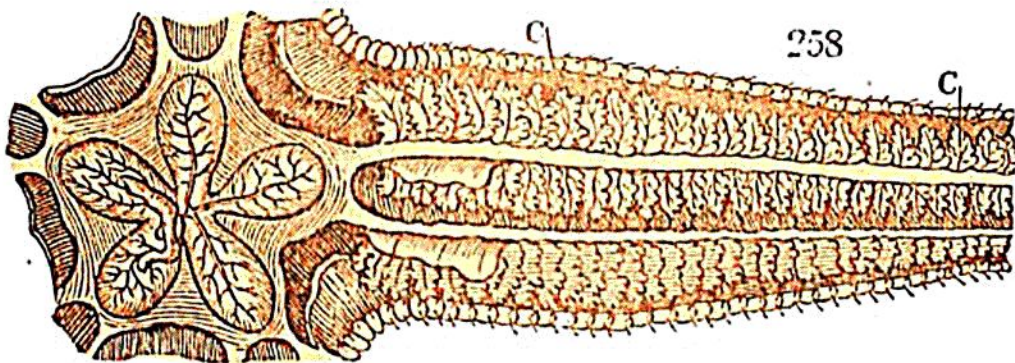


of a mouth, leading to the stomach *s*, of which the lower orifice is open, and which is suspended in the general cavity, by means of vertical partitions, of which the cut edges are seen below, uniting at a central point, *c*, and passing between the stomach and the integument. These muscular partitions are connected above with three rows of tentacula, of which the points are seen at *r*. The ovaries (*o*) are seen attached to the partition; and the apertures in the lower part of the stomach, by which they communicate with its cavity, may also be perceived.

If we considered the medusa as having four stomachs, we might in like manner regard the *Asterias*, or star-fish, as having ten, or even a greater number. The mouth of this



radiated animal is at the centre of the under surface; it leads into a capacious bag, situated immediately above it, and which is properly the stomach. From this central sac there proceed ten prolongations, or canals, which occupy in pairs the centre of each ray, or division of the body, and subdivide into numerous minute ramifications. These canals, with their branches, are exhibited at *c, c*, Fig. 258, which represents one of the rays of the *Asterias*, laid open from the upper side. The canals are supported in their positions by membranes, connecting them with the sides of the cavity in which they are suspended.

In the various species of *Echini*, we find that the alimentary tube has attained a more perfect development; for instead of constituting merely a blind pouch, it passes entirely through the body of the animal. We here find an *œsophagus*, or narrow tube, leading from the mouth to the