

element, and, together with the column and arms, would yield to the direction of the current.

Stomach.

The abdominal cavity, or stomach, of the Pentacrinite, (Pl. 51. Fig. 2.), is rarely preserved in a fossil state; it formed a funnel-shaped pouch, of considerable size, composed of a contractile membrane, covered externally with many hundred minute calcareous angular plates. At the apex of this funnel was a small aperture, forming the mouth, susceptible of elongation into a proboscis for taking in food.* The place of this organ is in the centre of the body, surrounded by the arms.

the articulating surfaces and of the bone itself, varies so as to give more universal motion as they advance towards the small extremity of the arm. See Pl. 53, Fig. 14. a. b.

In all this delicate mechanism which pervades every individual side arm, we see provision for the double purpose of attaching itself to extraneous bodies, and apprehending its prey. Five of these arms are set off from each of the largest joints of the vertebral column. At Pl. 53. Fig. 7. a. we see the bases, or first joints of these side arms articulating with the larger vertebræ, and inclined alternately to the right and left, for the purpose of occupying their position most advantageously for motion, without interfering with each other, or with the flexure of the vertebral column.

In the recent *Pentacrinus Caput Medusæ* (Pl. 52, Fig. 1.) the side arms (D.) are dispersed at distant intervals along the column.

* This unique specimen forms part of the splendid collection of James Johnson, Esq. of Bristol.