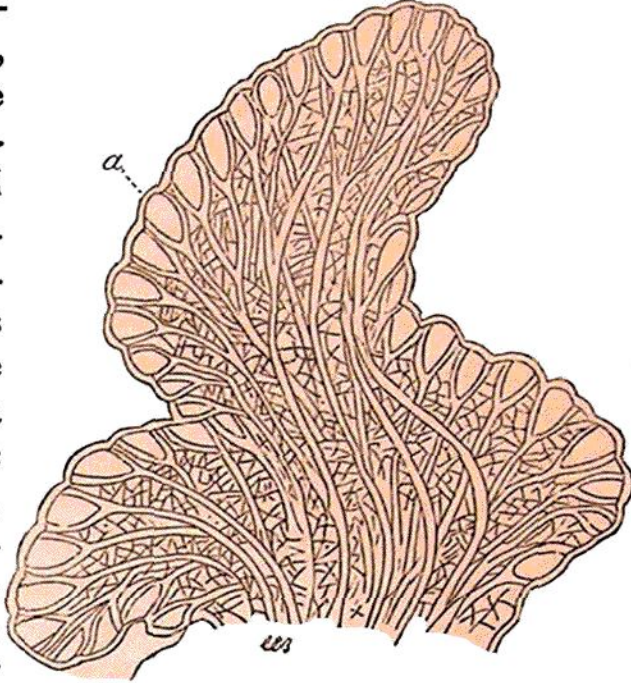


connection with it. They, as already mentioned, are found lodged in a sort of cell (Fig. 5. *a.*) excavated in a sarcoid crust, which constitutes the main bulk of the polypiferous mass, and which, in fact, is nothing more than a modification of the bases and outer skin of the polypes hardened by a deposition of calcareous granules and spicula, and made more coriaceous in texture, to bear with impunity the contact and ruffling of the water.\* This crust is accordingly a living irritable structure, permeated by tubes prolonged from the polypes and by capillary canals, for the conveyance of water and nutriment to every part.

Fig. 5.



The connection between the crust and the polypes is therefore of the most intimate kind, and if for conveniency the latter are separately described, the reader should ever remember, that this separation is a forced and artificial one. An asteroid polype mass is known by the orifices of the cells forming on the surface a mark more or less resembling a star, as commonly represented in maps—hence the name of the order: when the polype is

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\* “Lorsqu'on observe les Aleyons dans leur état naturel, la ligne de démarcation entre ces deux parties paraît bien tranchée, et on pourrait au premier abord, croire ces petits animaux logés dans des cellules au pourtour de l'ouverture desquelles ils adhereraient; mais quand on élève à l'aide d'un acide étendu d'eau, le dépôt calcaire dont la base du polype est environnée, on voit qu'il y a entre ces parties continuité organique, et que la cellule polypifère n'est autre chose que la portion inférieure du corps du polype qui, en se contractant, rentre en lui-même, comme nous l'avons déjà vu pour les Aleyonides. Le polypier commun n'est en effet autre chose que la résultat de l'aggrégation intime de la portion basilaire des polypes.” Milne-Edwards in *Ann. des Sc. Nat.* iv. 336. an 1835. The student may compare this with Lamouroux's description of the *Gorgia*. *Corallina*, p. 198.