the interior of the body. When the food has been sufficiently digested there, it passes, by imbibition, into the general cavity of the body, (*c*,) which is filled with water, and mingling with it, flows thence into all parts of the animal. The jelly-fishes, (Medusæ,) and some Worms, have a distinct stomach, with appendages branching off in every direction, (Fig. 31,) in which a more complete elaboration takes place. The little worms known by the name of Planaria, present a striking example of these ramifications of the intestine, (Fig. 49, *e*.) But here, likewise, the product of digestion mingles with the fluids of the cavity of the body which surround the intestine (*d*) and its branches, and circulation is not yet distinct from digestion.

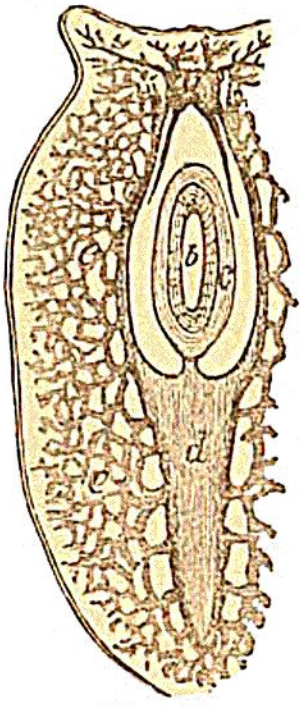

Fig. 49.

206. As we rise in the scale of animals, the functions concerned in nutrition become more and more distinct from each other. Digestion and circulation, no longer confounded, are accomplished separately, in distinct cavities. The most important organs concerned in digestion are the *stomach*, and the *small* and *large intestine*. The first indications of such a distinction are perceived in the higher Radiata, such as the sea-urchins, (Fig. 50,) in which the stomach (*s*) is broader than either extremity of the intestine. The dimensions and form of the cavities of the intestine vary considerably, according to the mode of life of the animal; but the special functions assigned to them are invariable; and the three principal cavities succeed each other, in

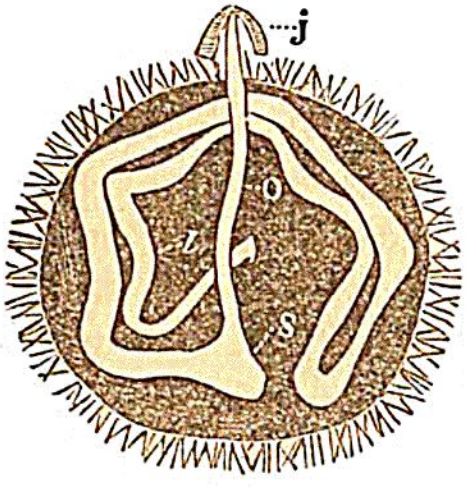

Fig. 50.