

and at the adult stage have become more or less insignificant. It may hence be stated briefly that the members of the more highly developed group (the *Cryptozonia*) pass in the course of their development through a stage which represents the characters of the adult condition of the more primitive group (the *Phanerozonia*).

Of the development of intermediate plates between the supero-marginal and infero-marginal series, and of the relative posture of the plates in these two series in the *Cryptozonte* Asterids, it is unnecessary here to remark.

From the foregoing considerations it will be seen that three of the most important class characters of the Asteroidea exhibit two modes of presentment, and that by means of any one of the three the *Euasteroidea* may be divided into two groups, one of which in each case is apparently older than the other.

Now the divisions thus made are essentially equivalent in each of the three categories; that is to say, the older group as determined by one of the characters corresponds to the older group determined by the other two, and similarly with the newer and more highly developed group. The corresponding divisions in each of the three categories are not, however, exactly coequal when regarded independently, nor is this to be expected; but the slight overlap or extension of one or other of the characters in the case of transitional groups is comparatively insignificant: in fact, the result is a "dove-tailing" or interlocking of the groups, which is perfectly natural and in accordance with what is found to occur in other branches of the animal kingdom. We have thus a natural morphological division of the sub-class into two sections or groups on the basis of three independent and important structural factors, one group being more archaic or more primitive than the other. These groups I regard as true natural orders in the strictest sense of the term. To the first or older group I have given the name *Phanerozonia*, to the second and more highly developed group the name of *Cryptozonia*.

I have selected the marginal plates for the name character of the orders in consequence of their importance in the Asterid skeleton as well as for the comparative ease with which their character may be observed in the superficial aspect of a starfish.

I shall now proceed to define the families comprised in the two orders, in accordance with my views as to their morphological relations, and shall cite under each the constituent genera. I have been led on structural grounds to establish subfamilies where the divergence of form indicated by the included genera demanded in my opinion this expression of their affinities. In many cases this presentment of the constitution of a group will be found to give a solidarity to the family and an intelligent view of its composition, as well as to indicate the relationships of genera which otherwise would appear isolated and unnaturally placed. As an evolutionist, however, I regard the ideas of species, genera, families, and other divisions, as merely abstract particulars which constitute a synopsis or working key to our views of the affinities of organic forms—the