

the genus *Leptopenus* are so extremely fragile, that only under the most favourable combination of circumstances could they become fossilized. The base of *Leptopenus hypocalus* is bent upwards below so as to form a hollow cup, and thus rests only on its margin. It is perforated throughout like lace-work by a series of apertures arranged in radiating rows with perfect symmetry. From the margins of the septa a series of septal spines project which probably bore the tentacles in the recent condition of the animal. This,

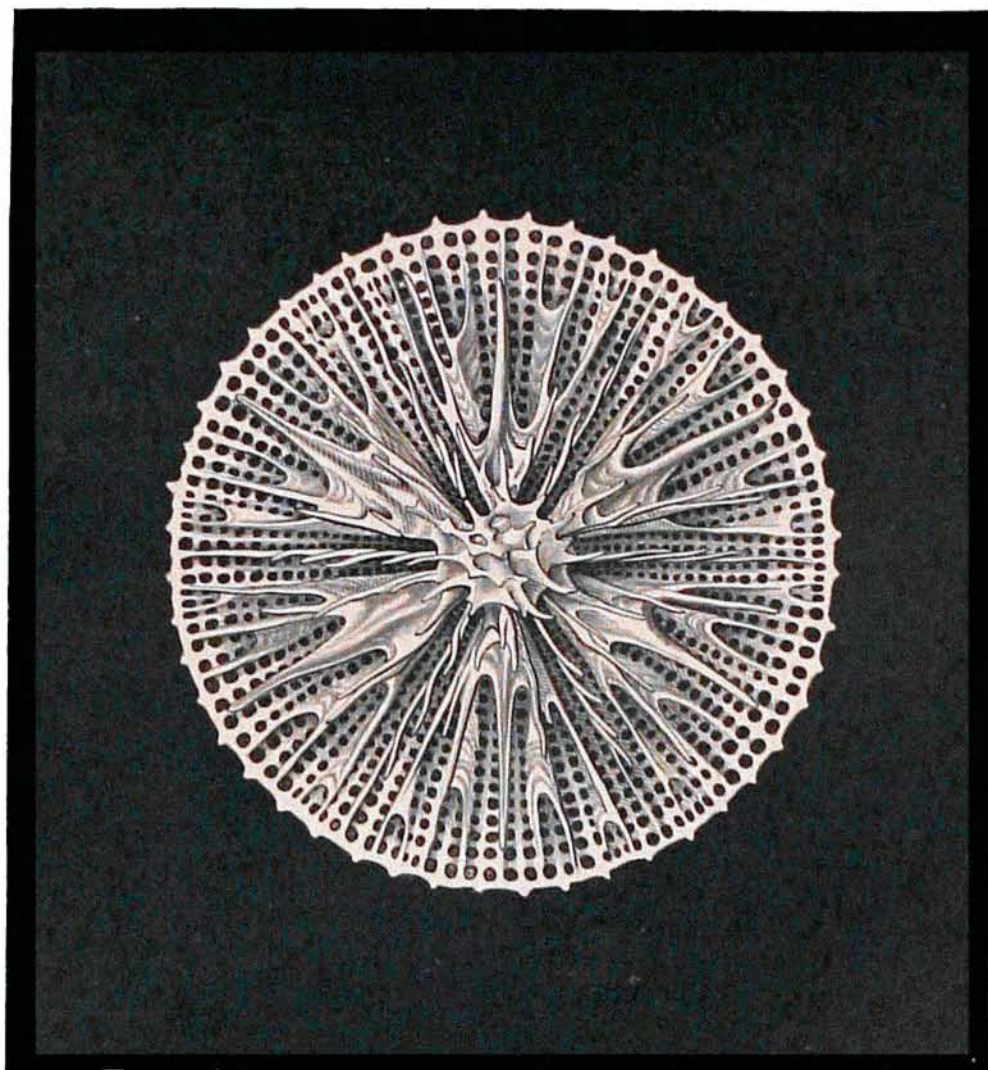


FIG 290.—*Leptopenus hypocalus*, Moseley. Off Valparaiso, 2160 fathoms. View from above.

however, was not observed to be the case, as only a single specimen of the bare skeleton was obtained. It is most extraordinary that a skeleton of such extreme delicacy should have reached the surface unbroken. It was necessary to secure the coral in a glass box at once to protect it even during scientific examination.

“ In some respects the results as to deep-sea corals have been disappointing. No forms of Madreporaria have been obtained which have exhibited any very important peculiari-  
(SARR. CHALL. EXP.—VOL. I.—1885.)