

Dr. Wallich's is the only book which discusses fully and systematically the various questions bearing upon the biological relations of the sea-bed, and his conclusions are in the main correct.

In the autumn of the year 1860 Mr. Fleeming Jenkin, C.E., now Professor of Engineering in the University of Edinburgh, was employed by the Mediterranean Telegraph Company to repair their cable between Sardinia and Bona on the coast of Africa, and on January 15, 1861, he gave an interesting account of his proceedings at a meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers.¹

This cable was laid in the year 1857. In 1858 it became necessary to repair it, and a length of about 30 miles was picked up and successfully replaced. In the summer of 1860 the cable completely failed. On taking it up in comparatively shallow water on the African shore, the cable was found covered with marine animals, greatly corroded, and injured apparently by the trawling operations in an extensive coral fishery through which it unfortunately passed. It was broken through in 70 fathoms water a few miles from Bona. The sea-end was however recovered, and it was found that the cable which thence traversed a wide valley nearly 2,000 fathoms in maximum depth, was perfect to within about 40 miles of Sardinia. It was then picked up from the Sardinian end, and the first 39 miles were as sound as when it was first laid down. At this distance from the shore there was a change in the nature of the bottom, evidenced by the different colour of the mud, and the wires were

¹ Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, with Abstracts of the Discussions. Vol. xx. p. 81. London, 1861.