

It is right, however, to state that Prof. Fleeming Jenkin's notes refer to only one or two species, and especially to *Caryophyllia borealis*, as attached to the cable at a depth of upwards of 1,000 fathoms. From this depth he took examples of *Caryophyllia* with his own hands, but he suspects that specimens from the shallower water may have got mixed with those from the deeper in the series in the possession of M. Mangon, and that therefore M. Milne-Edwards' list is not entirely trustworthy.

Up till this time all observations with reference to the existence of living animals at extreme depths had been liable to error, or at all events to doubt, from two sources. The appliances and methods of deep-sea sounding were imperfect, and there was always a possibility, from the action of deep currents upon the sounding line or from other causes, of a greater depth being indicated than really existed; and again, although there was a strong probability, there was no absolute certainty that the animals adhering to the line or entangled on the sounding instrument had actually come up from the bottom. They might have been caught on the way.

Before laying a submarine telegraphic cable its course is carefully surveyed, and no margin of doubt is left as to the real depth. Fishing the cable up is a delicate and difficult operation, and during its progress the depth is checked again and again. The cable lies on the ground throughout its whole length. The animal forms upon which our conclusions are based are not sticking loosely to the cable, under circumstances which might be accounted for by their having been entangled upon it during its passage through the