

tion to move our bodies in the denser medium. We are already familiar, chiefly through the researches of the late Professor Sars, with a long list of animals of all the invertebrate groups living at a depth of 300 to 400 fathoms, and consequently subject to a pressure of 1,120 lbs. on the square inch; and off the coast of Portugal there is a great fishery of sharks (*Centroscygnus cælolepis*, Boc. and CAP.), carried on beyond that depth.

If an animal so high in the scale of organization as a shark can bear without inconvenience the pressure of half a ton on the square inch, it is a sufficient proof that the pressure is applied under circumstances which prevent its affecting it to its prejudice, and there seems to be no reason why it should not tolerate equally well a pressure of one or two tons. At all events it is a fact that the animals of all the invertebrate classes which abound at a depth of 2,000 fathoms do bear that extreme pressure, and that they do not seem to be affected by it in any way. We dredged at 2,435 fathoms *Scrobicularia nitida*, MÜLLER, a species which is abundant in six fathoms and at all intermediate depths, and at 2,090 fathoms a large *Fusus*, with species of many genera which are familiar at moderate depths. Although highly organized animals may live when permanently subjected to these high pressures, it is by no means certain that they could survive the change of condition involved in the pressure being suddenly removed. Most of the mollusca and annelids brought up in the dredge from beyond 1,000 fathoms were either dead or in a very sluggish state. Some of the star-fishes moved for some time