

CHAPTER IV.

THE CRUISES OF THE 'PORCUPINE' (*continued*).

From Shetland to Stornoway.—Phosphorescence.—The *Echinothuridæ*.—The Fauna of the 'Warm Area.'—End of the Cruise of 1869. Arrangements for the Expedition of 1870.—From England to Gibraltar.—Peculiar Conditions of the Mediterranean.—Return to Cowes.

APPENDIX A.—Extracts from the Minutes of Council of the Royal Society, and other official documents referring to the Cruise of H.M.S. 'Porcupine' during the Summer of 1870.

APPENDIX B.—Particulars of Depth, Temperature, and Position at the various Dredging-stations of H.M.S. 'Porcupine' in the Summer of 1870.

* * * *The bracketed numbers to the woodcuts in this chapter refer to the dredging-stations on Plates IV. and V.*

WE left Lerwick on the 31st of August, and ran south- and westward, passing close to Sumburgh Head; Fair Isle, of evil repute among mariners, lying on the southern horizon like a little grey cloud. The weather was still very fine, and we had a good tossing with scarcely a breath of wind in the famous Roost of Sumburgh. Past Norna's eyrie on the 'Fitful Head;' past in the falling shadows of the autumn night the rocky Island of Foula, still the haunt of one or two pairs of the great skua gull, *Lestris cataractes*, a species fast