

or one might rather say glowing, up to the centre; then that would fade, and a defined patch, a centimetre or so long, break out in the middle of an arm and travel slowly out to the point, or the whole five rays would light up at the ends and spread the fire inwards. Very young *Ophiacanthæ*, only lately rid of their 'plutei,' shone very brightly. It is difficult to doubt that in a sea swarming with predaceous crustaceans, such as active species of *Dorynchus* and *Munida* with great bright eyes, phosphorescence must be a fatal gift. We had another gorgeous display of luminosity during this cruise. Coming down the Sound of Skye from Loch Torridon, on our return, we dredged in about 100 fathoms, and the dredge came up tangled with the long pink stems of the singular sea-pen *Pavonaria quadrangularis*. Every one of these was embraced and strangled by the twining arms of *Asteronyx lovéni*, and the round soft bodies of the star-fishes hung from them like plump ripe fruit. The *Pavonariæ* were resplendent with a pale lilac phosphorescence like the flame of cyanogen gas; not scintillating like the green light of *Ophiacantha*, but almost constant, sometimes flashing out at one point more brightly and then dying gradually into comparative dimness, but always sufficiently bright to make every portion of a stem caught in the tangles or sticking to the ropes distinctly visible. From the number of specimens of *Pavonaria* brought up at one haul we had evidently passed over a forest of them. The stems were a metre long, fringed with hundreds of polyps.

*Ophiocten sericeum*, FORBES, and *Ophioscolex purpurea*, D. and K., were likewise very common, and