

—again a mass of water lying at the bottom, 745 fathoms—not far from a mile—in depth, at the uniform temperature of 12°·6 C. (54°·7 F.)

The dredge was sent down at each successive station, but with very poor result; and Dr. Carpenter was driven to the conclusion that the bottom of the Mediterranean at depths beyond a few hundred fathoms is nearly azoic. The conditions are not actually inconsistent with the existence of animal life, for at most of the stations some few living forms were met with, but they are certainly singularly unfavourable. Thus at Station 49, at a depth of 1412 fathoms, and a temperature of 12°·7 C., the following species of mollusca were obtained: *Nucula quadrata*, n. sp.; *N. pumila*, ABSJÖRNSSEN; *Leda*, n. sp.; *Verticordia granulata*, SEG.; *Hela tenella*, JEFFREYS; *Trochus gemmulatus*, PH.; *Rissoa subsoluta*, ARADAS; *Natica affinis*, GMELIN; *Trophon multilamellosus*, PH.; *Nassa prismatica*, BR.; *Columbella haliæti*, JEFF.; *Buccinium acuticostatum*, PH.; *Pleurotoma carinatum*, CRISTOFORI and JAN; *P. torquatum*, PH.; *P. decussatum*, PH.

Near the African coast the fauna was more abundant, but the bottom was so rough that it was unsafe to use the dredge, and the tangles were usually sent down alone. Many polyzoa, echinoderms, corals, and sponges were taken in this way, but they were mostly well-known Mediterranean species. After remaining for a few days at Tunis and visiting the ruins of Carthage, dredging was resumed on the 6th of September on the 'Adventure' Bank, so called from its having been discovered by Admiral Smyth when surveying in H.M.S. 'Adventure.' Here, at depths