

CHAPTER VI.

DEEP-SEA DREDGING.

The Naturalist's Dredge.—O. F. Müller.—Ball's Dredge.—Dredging at moderate Depths.—The Dredge-rope.—Dredging in Deep Water.—The 'Hempen tangles.'—Dredging on board the 'Porcupine.'—The Sieves.—The Dredger's Note-book.—The Dredging Committee of the British Association.—Dredging on the Coast of Britain.—Dredging abroad.—History of the Progress of Knowledge of the Abyssal Fauna.

APPENDIX A.—One of the Dredging Papers issued by the British Association Committee, filled up by Mr. MacAndrew.

UP to the middle of last century the little that was known of the inhabitants of the bottom of the sea beyond low-water mark, seems to have been gathered almost entirely from the few objects found thrown upon the beach from time to time after storms, and from chance captures on lead-lines, and by fishermen on their long lines and in trawls and oyster and clam dredges. Even these precarious sources of information could not be used to the utmost, for it was next to impossible to induce fishermen to bring ashore anything except the regular objects of their industry. Even now the schoolmaster has scarcely made way enough to eradicate old prejudices. Fishermen are often so absolutely ignorant of the nature of these extraneous animals, that it