

is conceivable to them that they may be devils of some kind which may have the power in some occult way of influencing them and the results of their fishing. I believe, however, that with the progress of education this notion is dying out in most places, and that now fewer rarities and novelties are lost because it is 'unlucky' to keep them in the boat.

The naturalist's dredge does not appear to have been systematically used for investigating the fauna of the bottom of the sea, until it was employed by Otho Frederick Müller in the researches which afforded material for the publication in 1779 of his admirable "Descriptions and History of the rarer and less known Animals of Denmark and Norway." In the preface to the first volume Müller gives a quaint account of his machinery and mode of working which it is pleasant to read.

The first paragraph quoted gives a description of a dredge not very unlike that used by Ball and Forbes (Fig. 44), only the mouth of the dredge seems to have been square, a modification of the ordinary form which we find useful for some purposes still, but in most cases it gives fatal facilities for 'washing out' in the process of hauling in.

"Praecipuum instrumentum, quo fundi maris et sinuum incolas extrahere conabar, erat *Sacculus* reticularis, ex funiculis cannabinis concinnatus, margine aperturae alligatus laminis quatuor ferreis ora exteriori acutis, vnam longis, quatuor vncias latis, et in quadratum dispositis. Angulis laminarum exsurgebant quatuor bacilli ferrei, altera extremitate in annulum liberum iuncti. Huic annectitur funis ducentarum et plurium orgyrum longitudine. Saccus