

far the most common error in amateur dredging, from the low angle at which the line is lying in the water the dredge has its best chance of getting an occasional scrape. It is bad economy to use too light a rope. For a dredge such as that described, and for work round the coasts of Europe at depths attainable from a row-boat or yawl, I would recommend bolt-rope of the best Russian hemp, not less than one and a half inch in circumference, which should contain from eighteen to twenty yarns in three strands. Each yarn should bear nearly a hundredweight, so that the breaking strain of such a rope ought to be upwards of a ton. Of course it is never voluntarily exposed to such a strain, but in shallow water the dredge is often caught among rocks or coral, and the rope ought to be strong enough in such a case to bring up the boat, even if there were some little way on.

Dredging in sand or mud, the dredge-rope may simply be passed through the double eye formed by the extremities of the two arms of the dredge; but in rocky or unknown ground it is better to fasten the rope to the eye of one of the arms only, and to tie the two eyes together with about three or four turns of rope yarn. This breaks much more readily than the dredge rope, so that if the dredge get caught it is the first thing to give way under a strain, and in doing so it very often so alters the position and form of the dredge as to allow of its extrication.

The dredge is slipped gently over the side, either from the bow or from the stern—in a small boat more usually the latter—while there is a little way on, and the direction which the rope takes indi-