

Captain Calver sent down half-a-dozen of the 'swabs' used for washing the decks attached to the dredge. The result was marvellous. The tangled hemp brought up everything rough and moveable which came in its way, and swept the bottom as it might have swept the deck. Captain Calver's invention initiated a new era in deep-sea dredging. After various experiments we came to the conclusion that the best plan was to attach a long iron transverse bar to the bottom of the dredge-bag, and to fasten large bunches of teased-out hemp to the free ends of the bar (Fig. 51). We now regard the 'hempen tangles' as an essential adjunct to the dredge nearly as important as the dredge itself, and usually much more conspicuous in its results. Sometimes, when the ground is too rough for ordinary dredging, we use the tangles alone. There is some danger, however, in their use. The dredge employed under the most favourable circumstances may be supposed or hoped to pass over the surface of the floor of the sea for a certain distance, picking up the objects in its path which are perfectly free, and small enough to enter the dredge mouth. If they chance to be attached in any way, the dredge rides over them. If they exceed in the least the width of the dredge-opening, at the particular angle at which the dredge may present itself at the moment, they are shoved aside and lost.

The Mollusca have by far the best chance of being fully represented in investigations carried on by the dredge alone. Their shells are comparatively small solid bodies mixed with the stones on the bottom, and they enter the dredge along with these. Echino-