

the bag is about half full. If, from a great depth, beyond the reach of currents, where there is only so slow a movement of the mass of water that the finest sediment is not carried away, it contains usually fine calcareous or aluminous mud alone, with the animals forming the fauna of the locality distributed through it. In shallower water we may have sand or gravel, or stones of various sizes mixed with mud and sand.

The next step is to examine the contents of the dredge carefully, and to store the objects of search for future use. The dredge is hauled on deck, and there are two ways of emptying it. We may either turn it up and pour out its contents by the mouth, or we may have a contrivance by which the bottom of the bag may be made to unlacc. The first plan is the simplest and the one most usually adopted. The second has the advantage of letting the mass out more smoothly and easily, but the lacing introduces rather a damaging complication, as it is apt to loosen or give way. In a regularly organized dredging expedition, a frame is often arranged with a ledge round it to receive the contents of the dredge, but it does very well to capsize it on an old piece of tarpauling. Any objects visible on the surface of the heap are now carefully removed and placed for identification in jars or tubs of sea-water, of which there should be a number standing ready. The heap should not be much disturbed, for the delicate objects contained in it have already been unavoidably subjected to a good deal of rough usage, and the less friction among the stones the better.

Close to the place where the dredge is emptied