

the shallower is the water which it inhabits. The cephalopods are chiefly pelagic and surface things, and their remains are consequently found in deposits from all depths. To this general pelagic distribution of cephalopods there seem to be two remarkable exceptions, and these the two members of their class which are by far the most interesting in their geological relations. *Nautilus pompilius* inhabits the deep water of the Pacific, while the habitat of *Spirula australis* is unknown. The shell of *Spirula* is thin and light, and, probably after the death of the animal and by the decomposition of organic matter, it becomes filled with air, and the emptied shell floats, and is drifted along on the surface of the sea. Tropical shores are strewn with the pearly little coil, which attracts attention by the elegance of its form. It is abundant on all shores in the path of the Gulf-stream. Sysselmann Müller gave me, a few years ago, a quantity which had been drifted on the south-western shores of different islands of the Færoe group. Still the structure of the animal of *Spirula* may be said to be unknown. One specimen only, which was described by Professor Owen, was found nearly perfect on the coast of New Zealand by Mr. Percy Noel. I suppose there can be little doubt that this is a deep-water form, and I hope that with our deep-sea dredging we shall soon clear up its economy; but in the meantime the evident abundance of the animal and our ignorance of its history are very suggestive. In the London clay one or two examples of a fossil have been found, nearly allied to *Spirula*, but differing in this respect—that a solid conical rostrum projects backwards, its half-calcified, half-