

of the ordinary grey ooze of the Atlantic. The gale had blown over, and we experienced light easterly and northerly winds, which enabled us to get a few successful hauls with the dredge, and soundings between the coast in the neighbourhood of Lisbon and the deep water to the south-west in the direction of Madeira: the incline was found to slope gently down to 1475 fathoms, with a muddy bottom at 31 miles distant from the shore.

When a little to the south of Cape St. Vincent, it was proposed to try the common trawl, and one with a 15-foot beam was lowered in 600 fathoms; it went down all right, and, after being towed for some hours, was drawn in just as easily as the dredge.

There was no lack of living things, strange-looking fish with their eyes blown nearly out of their head by the expansion of the air in their air-bladders, while entangled amongst the meshes were many starfish and delicate zoophytes shining with a vivid phosphorescent light. On another occasion of using the trawl, an object of very great interest was brought to light, and afforded an opportunity of seeing one of those highly prized and beautiful specimens of the *Euplectella*, or Venus's flower-basket, alive.* It is an object most beautiful in form and structure, consisting of a slightly curved conical tube 8 or 10 inches in height, contracted beneath to a blunt point and expanded above to the width of about

* Professor Thomson, in 'Good Words.'