

entirely devoid of animal life. This newly discovered formation going on at the bottom of the sea appeared, as was found afterwards, to extend for some 350 miles, when the depth decreased gradually until 2000 fathoms was obtained, and the dredge brought up animal life. The nature of the bottom changed gradually into the usual Atlantic ooze, altering again in a few days, as the depth increased to 3000 fathoms, when the mud lost all trace of carbonate of lime and resumed its red colour, which continued to within 100 miles of Sombrero. The analysis of this red deposit proved it to be almost a pure clay (a silicate of alumina and the oxide of iron, with a small portion of manganese). From these results it was inferred that the circumstances which lead to the deposition of this bottom were the cause of its being so unfavourable to the development of species; and, although it has been since proved that animal life is possible at *all* depths, it has been found, after reaching, say, 1000 fathoms, that its abundance greatly diminishes. It was in one of these dredgings we were successful in obtaining a beautiful blind crustacea, perfectly transparent, which, although found at such great depths, does not appear to suffer from this peculiarity either in development or colour, nature having supplied claws and feelers to make up for the suppression of eyes, the sense of vision being useless in its normal state of perpetual darkness.