

as may be required. The dredge or trawl being ready to go over, is triced up clear of the platform and hauled out by the tackle until well clear of the vessel's side; the rope is then let go and allowed to run out freely, the ship steaming slowly ahead; from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 hours are usually required to sink the dredge in this manner, when the depth is about 2500 fathoms. When it is once down, which is easily found by experience, the vessel is allowed to drift, or steams slowly on for some hours, the accumulator illustrating by the expansion and contraction how the dredge is being dragged over the inequalities of the bottom. Should it foul anything, the strain of the vessel immediately stretches the accumulators to their utmost, the line is at once eased out to prevent it carrying away, and various plans are tried to release it. If all turns out favourable, when it has been on the bottom a sufficient time, the rope is brought to the deck-engine and the dredge hove up. When it appears above the surface, there is usually great excitement amongst the "Philos," who are ever on the alert with forceps, bottles, and jars, to secure the unwary creatures who may by chance have found their way into the net. Such a sight when it is really inboard; here we have no lack of wonderful things, strange-looking fish, delicate alcyonarian zoophytes, sea-urchins, starfish, besides shell, mud, &c.

During the time of sounding and dredging, the ship's company not specially employed on these