

were anxious to try whether the dredge would still prove serviceable. The small dredge was accordingly lowered with the usual bar and tangles, and from the centre of the bar a "Hydra" sounding-tube, weighted with 4 cwt., was suspended about two fathoms behind the dredge. A two-inch rope was veered to 4400 fathoms; a toggle was stopped on the rope 500 fathoms from the dredge, and when the dredge was well down two weights of 1 cwt. each were slipped down the rope to the toggle. We commenced heaving in about 1.30, and the dredge came up at 5 P.M. with a considerable quantity of reddish-gray ooze, mottled like the contents of the sounding-tube. The bluer portion effervesced slightly with acids, the redder scarcely at all. The mud was carefully examined, but no animals were detected, except a few small foraminifera with calcareous tests, and some considerably larger of the arenaceous type. This dredging, therefore, only confirms our previous conviction that very extreme depths, while not inconsistent with the existence of animal life, are not favorable to its development.

In the afternoon a series of temperatures were taken at intervals of 100 fathoms from the surface to 1500:

Surface.....	24°·5 C.	800 fathoms.....	3°·6 C.
100 fathoms.....	20 ·3	900 " .....	—
200 " .....	16 ·7	1000 " .....	3 ·1
300 " .....	12 ·1	1100 " .....	2 ·9
400 " .....	8 ·4	1200 " .....	2 ·9
500 " .....	6 ·4	1300 " .....	2 ·8
600 " .....	5 ·0	1400 " .....	2 ·5
700 " .....	—	1500 " .....	2 ·4

The curve constructed from this series indicates a very rapid and uniform fall of about 20° C. during the first 600 fathoms, and generally a distribution of temperature almost identical with that of some of the later stations on the section from Santa Cruz to Sombrero (curve No. 25, Fig. 71).

In the evening we pursued our course northward under all plain sail.