traordinary way, both in form and coloring, their floating habitat, and consequently one another, that we can well imagine their deceiving both the birds and the fishes. Among the most curious of the gulf-weed animals is the grotesque little fish *Antennarius marmoratus* (Fig. 44, vol. i., p. 188), which finds its nearest English ally in the "fishing frog" (*Lophius piscatorius*), often thrown up on the coast of Britain, and conspicuous for the disproportionate size of its head and jaws, and for its general ugliness and rapacity. None of the examples of the gulf-weed *Antennarius* which we have found are more than 50 mm. in length, and we are still uncertain whether such individuals have attained their full size. It is this little fish which constructs the singular nests of gulf-weed, bound in a bundle with cords of a viscid secretion, which have been already mentioned as abundant in the path of the Gulf-stream.

Scillæa pelagica, one of the shell-less mollusca, is also a frequent inhabitant of the gulf-weed. A little short-tailed crab (*Nautilograpsus minutus*) swarms on the weed and on every floating object, and it is odd to see how the little creature usually corresponds in color with whatever it may happen to inhabit. These gulf-weed animals, fishes, mollusca, and crabs, do not simply imitate the colors of the gulf-weed; to do so would be to produce suspicious patches of continuous olive; they are all blotched over with bright opaque white, the blotches generally rounded, sometimes irregular, but at a little distance absolutely undistinguishable from the patches of *Membranipora* on the weed. Mr. Murray, who has the general superintendence of our surface work, brings in curious stories of the habits of the little crabs. He observes that although every floating thing upon the surface is covered with them, they are rarely met with swimming free, and that whenever they are dislodged and removed a little way from their resting-place they immediately make the most vigorous efforts to regain it. The other day he amused himself teasing a crab which had established itself on

II.—2