

siderable length, and with a sinuous arrangement. On the whole, plant-life seems to play a much more important rôle than corals in accumulating carbonate of lime around the Cape Verde Islands ; but the larger Foraminifera are of far greater importance than either in some places, the calcareous sand of the harbour of St. Vincent being mainly composed of them.

Notwithstanding the desolate nature of the island, St. Vincent is rising into importance, for it possesses the only safe and convenient anchorage in the Cape Verde group, or, in fact, anywhere between that group and the south coast of Spain ; its situation also renders it a most suitable halting place for the mail steamers running between England and the ports in South America, or the Cape of Good Hope. Spacious coal stores have been constructed on shore, and piers have been run out into the bay to admit of loading boats rapidly. The coal, kept in bags, is conveyed to the ships in barges, and labourers can be hired from the shore to assist in passing the bags on board, so that vessels requiring to replenish their fuel here can do so without difficulty or delay. A submarine cable connects St. Vincent with Madeira and Pernambuco.

The town is well laid out, and there are a few respectable buildings in it, especially the custom house and the residence of the governor, but the great want of the place is water, which can only be obtained in small quantities from a few wells at the back of the settlement. The supply of provisions is extremely bad ; no vegetables of any kind could be procured during the stay, nor, in fact, supplies of any kind, except coal and bread ; the beef was so bad that the ship's company refused to eat it.

A quarantine establishment of some description is much required, as at present passengers from the fever-stricken ports of South America have to remain in an open boat in the bay until the health officer is satisfied that they are free from disease.

The climate, although warm, is, owing to its freedom from moisture, not unpleasant ; the mean yearly temperature is about 74° , the mean temperature of the coldest month (February) being about 69° , and of the warmest (September) 79° . The trade wind is seldom interrupted, and frequently blows with considerable violence through the channel between the islands of St. Vincent and San Antonio.

The survey of the anchorage was not completed without some little difficulty. The trade wind was occasionally so strong, reaching on one occasion a force of 8, that the boats could not work, nor could a theodolite be set up on shore, except in a sheltered position ; in fact, the squalls from the hills raised a mass of spondrift over the whole of the bay and clouds of sand in the plains. A landing was effected and a station established on Bird Island, though not on the summit, the crumbling nature of the rock of which that islet is composed rendering it unadvisable to plant an instrument on its peak. The magnetic observations taken on shore were unsatisfactory, since a position was not found which was free from local attraction.

Observations on the current in the channel between St. Vincent and San Antonio gave the following results :—The movement of the water was tidal, the N.E.-going stream