

rise the Azores and St. Paul's Rocks, and other volcanic cones

and islands of small extent rise from the deeper water, like the Bermuda, Madeira, and Canary Islands, and the Dacia, Josephine, and other banks.

The route of the "Michael Sars" from Plymouth to Gibraltar (Fig. 37) was selected in order to find the most favourable localities for using the fishing gear, that is to say, where the continental slope is less steep than usual, and where accordingly the gear would be working on comparatively level ground. We expected to find the best ground where the coast banks are broadest; for instance, off Ireland, in the Spanish Bay (Gulf of Cadiz), south of the Canaries, and off the Newfoundland Banks. In our crossings of the ocean we had particularly to take into consideration the distance between the coaling harbours.

All preparations being complete, the "Michael Sars" sailed from Bergen on the 1st April, the first port made being Plymouth, where Sir John Murray joined the expedition. While at anchor at Plymouth the captains of trawlers informed us that the bottom on the coast banks and on the continental slope was very rough in some places, but that if we took a westerly direction

Route of the "Michael Sars."

From Plymouth to Gibraltar.

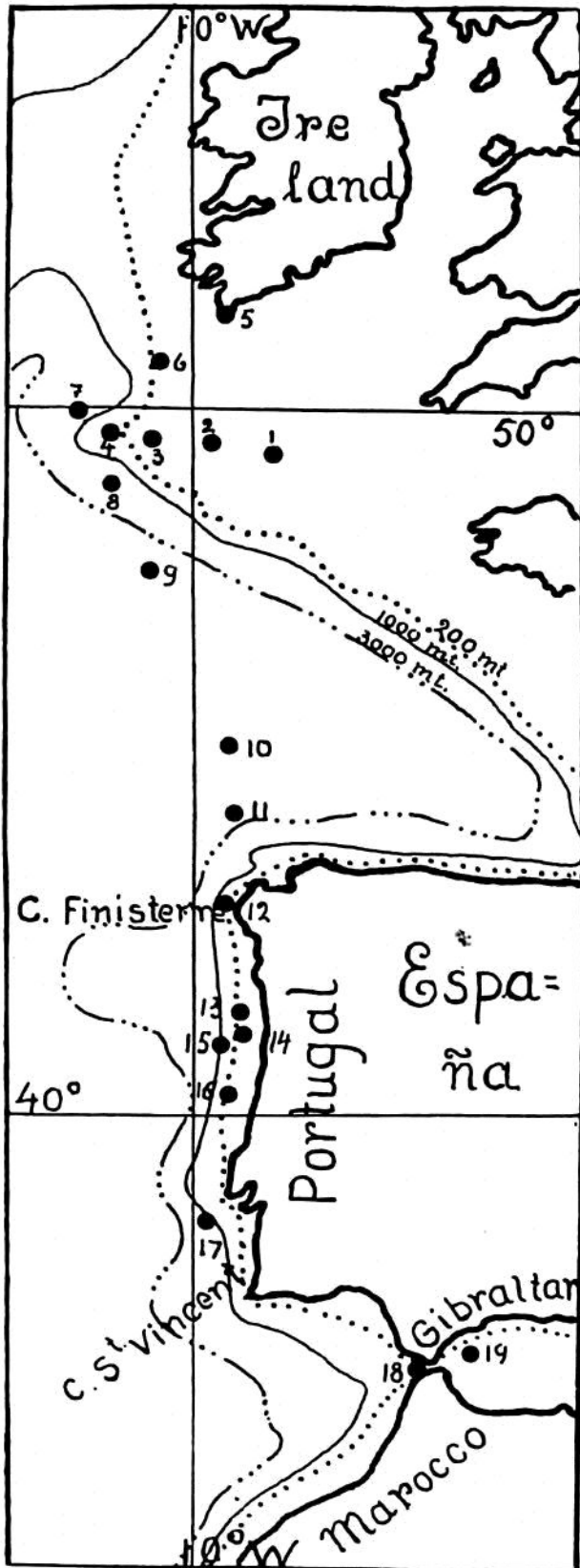


FIG. 37.—THE "MICHAEL SARS" OBSERVING STATIONS FROM PLYMOUTH TO GIBRALTAR.

we should have a good opportunity of using the trawl down to