

slightly warmed while sinking, just as happens with air that suddenly sinks from a great height towards the earth. This rise of temperature has also been attributed to decomposing organic matter and to radio-active matter in the deposits at the bottom. Whatever may have been the cause, we certainly found a similar slight rise in the temperature of the deepest layer on several subsequent occasions during our cruise.

Trawling in
deep water.

We next resolved to try the big trawl, and to reach the bottom at 4700 metres we estimated that it would be necessary to allow 8000 metres of wire, that is to say, 8 kilometres (Fig.

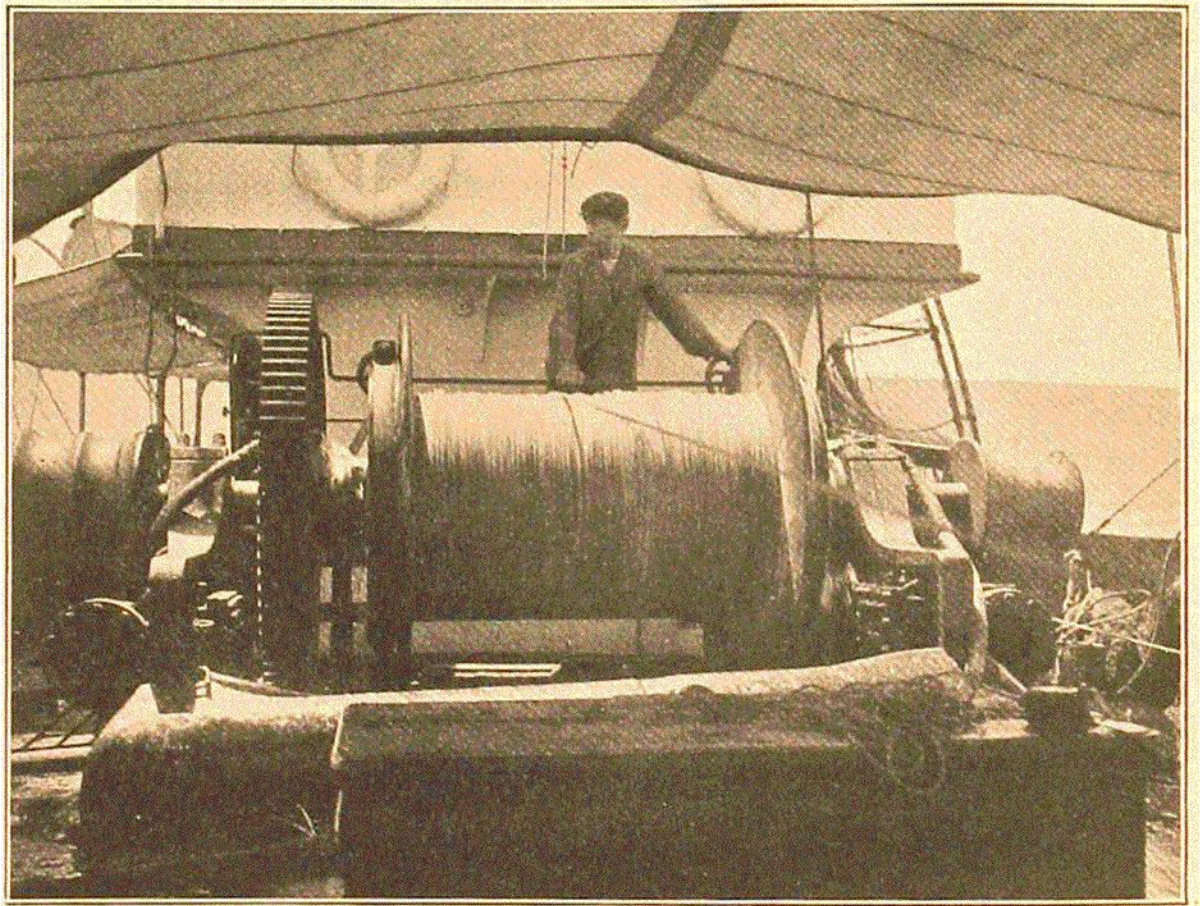


FIG. 41.—THE LARGE WINCH.

41). We were engaged in paying out line from 5.30 P.M. to 7.15 P.M., and at midnight we commenced hauling in, which lasted for about six hours. The trawl contained only two fishes (*Macrurus*) and a number of lower forms of animals: holothurians, a few worms, a gasteropod, a chalk-coloured crab, some ascidians, and one or two other things (see Chapter VII.).

This seemed to us such a poor catch that we came to the conclusion that something had gone wrong. The trawl was therefore dropped again, and could be seen sinking down in perfect order. After being towed for three and a half hours, it suddenly stuck fast and stopped the ship. Hauling in took