

a series of short zig-zag sections between the land and the edge of the coast-banks, till we reached Newfoundland. We should in that case have been able to study the remarkable transition that occurs on passing from the almost tropical conditions of the Sargasso Sea to those of the icy Labrador Stream, which creeps southwards along the Labrador coast from Baffin's Bay to Newfoundland, and even farther south. The short time at our disposal made this impossible, and we were compelled to cross from the Azores to the nearest coaling station, namely Newfoundland, and then make for home.

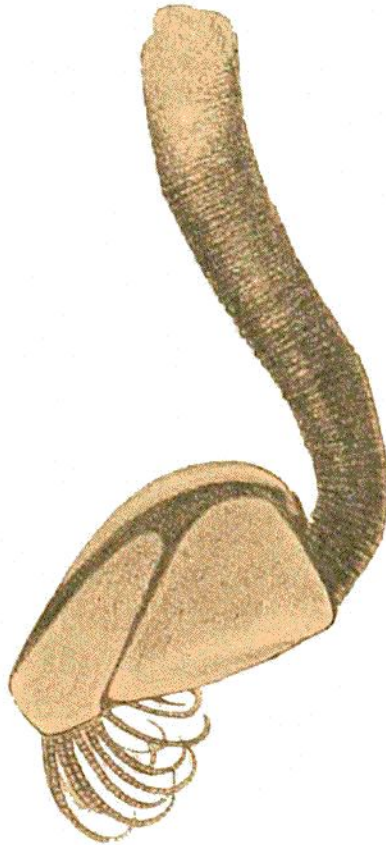


FIG. 87.  
*Lepas anatifera.* Nat. size.

The mere distance between the Azores and Newfoundland, between 1200 and 1300 nautical miles, was a serious consideration for our little vessel, for we had to count upon meeting headwinds and currents, especially when we reached the Gulf Stream off the Newfoundland Bank; and there was always the possibility of fog delaying us. We resolved accordingly to go westwards towards the eastern boundary of the Gulf Stream, and then turn northwards, which would increase the distance to 1800 miles, but would offer better conditions of wind and current. We should also be enabled to visit again the Sargasso Sea, the animal life of which we had found so interesting, and we should further be able to take a section right across the axis of the Gulf Stream. To prepare for all emergencies we not only

filled our bunkers as full as they could hold with the best Welsh coal, but also piled our decks with as much as we could find room for. This done, we said farewell to Horta's little harbour on the afternoon of 17th June.

During the first two or three days of our journey west we had wind and sea dead against us, so work was limited to hydrographical observations at Stations 59 and 60 (see Chart, Fig. 62). The weather afterwards cleared up, and at Station 61 we met with certain fishes, hitherto regarded as extremely rare, swimming about on the surface of the Atlantic. On lowering a boat to examine a drifting log overgrown with barnacles (Fig. 87), we found it surrounded by fishes like those observed