

needle-fish *Nerophis*, *Fierasfer*, *Arachnactis* and *Lepas fascicularis*, as well as young stages of coast-bank forms, stray specimens of which were also met with just off the slope (Stations 92 and 94).

It will be an interesting task to compare the western and eastern portions of this section, as well as the whole of this northerly section, with the section farther south from the Canary Islands past the Azores to the Gulf Stream. One thing which did strike us particularly was that the boreal plankton—the Gulf Stream forms of the Norwegian Sea—were entirely absent from the southern section (Stations 45–64), but were everywhere present in the northern section. It must be remembered, however, that our pelagic hauls did not reach the very deepest water-layers, which may have the same plankton in both sections, including the boreal species known from the Norwegian Sea. We further noticed in the southern section more of the remarkable “rare” deep-sea fish that have been found in other oceans (the Indian Ocean, for instance) than in the northern section.

Eel larvæ.

The distribution according to size of individuals belonging to the different larval forms was noteworthy. As previously mentioned, we came across very small larvæ—from 4 cm. to 6 cm. long—of the common eel to the south and west of the Azores; on the northern section also we found larvæ of the eel, but they were all full-grown leptocephali. This distribution does not seem to be specially characteristic of the eel, for on the southern section we came across many small larvæ and eggs belonging to other forms, none of which were met with farther north. Future investigations will doubtless make all this clear, and may lead to valuable discoveries.

Trawling on
the Mid-
Atlantic ridge.

The accident to our trawl on the Azores bank, already mentioned, prevented us from trawling in very deep water, but for all that we were able to carry out two successful trawlings at considerable depths. The first was at Station 88, on the longitudinal ridge north of the Azores, where we shot our trawl in 3120 metres of water. There were numbers of echinoderms of all kinds (starfish, sand-stars, sea-urchins, and holothurians), as well as a score of bottom-fish (*Macrurus*, *Synaphobranchus*, *Bathysaurus*). The haul was extremely interesting, as it gave a fresh proof of the abundance of animal life as far down as 3000 metres—not in this case on a continental slope, but out on a ridge in the middle of the ocean. Off the coast of Ireland we succeeded in trawling at 1000 fathoms (1797 metres, Station 95),