

such a way that it was towed about 1000 metres above the bottom, and in this net an *Alepocephalus* was also captured.

Such facts warn us against hasty conclusions. Many fishes may, like the fishes in the Norwegian Sea (*Gadidæ*, *Sebastes*), occur in midwater above considerable depths as well as on the coastal banks and the continental slopes. A single record of a species from intermediate waters does not necessarily entitle us to consider the species as entirely pelagic. As in most biological questions, we have to judge from the available evidence, and, in dealing with the captures of fishes by deep-sea expeditions¹ in depths exceeding 2000 fathoms (3600 metres), I have endeavoured to eliminate all those species which are apparently pelagic, having been frequently captured at intermediate depths. In this way I have attempted to ascertain how many species and individuals have really been captured on the bottom of the abyssal plain of the oceans, and the result is given in the following table, which comprises 35 individuals belonging to 21 species in all:—

Fishes from
the bottom in
depths over
2000 fathoms.

¹ The excellent lists given by Brauer in his Report on the Deep-Sea Fishes of the "Valdivia" Expedition, the list by Vaillant in his Report of the French deep-sea expeditions, Garman's Report of the "Albatross" expeditions, Goode and Bean's *Oceanic Ichthyology*, and Murray's splendid Summary of the "Challenger" Expedition, have greatly facilitated this task.