sightless. And recently a young specimen of *Homarus* has been taken in the English Channel that corresponds with the description of *Nephropsis* in most points, except that it has well-developed organs of vision, and that the retina at the back of the lenses is lined with black pigment.

Geographical Distribution.—The Challenger brought home specimens of this genus from Bermuda and from the Papuan Seas.

Mr. Wood-Mason records his specimens from the Andaman Islands, in the Gulf of Bengal. The Rev. Dr. Norman has described a new species, *Nephropsis atlantica*,[1] with small and immature eyes, obtained by Mr. Murray in the Færöe Channel, during the cruise of the "Knight Errant" and of the "Triton."

But for the absence of the scaphocerite from the second pair of antennæ, I should be much inclined to believe that the species of this genus are only young forms of *Nephrops* or of some nearly allied genus. The specimen that I described as *Nephropsis cornubiensis*, in the report of the British Association for 1880, with the reservation, "but as we know so little of the young of any of the Macrura after they have passed the earliest stages, we are induced to believe it to be no other than an immature condition of *Nephrops*," I have recently been able to determine to be a stage in the development of *Homarus marinus* of the European Seas. Now, as *Nephropsis suhmi* was taken associated with *Phoberus tenuimanus*, at Station 191, it is not improbable that the two are the same species at different ages. The Rev. Dr. Norman in writing to me says, "The genus is certainly not the young of *Nephrops*. I have specimens of *Nephrops* of *very much* smaller size than the *Nephropsis*, and the pleon *though very like* is different." But it is remarkable that of all the specimens taken in the cruises of the "Knight Errant" and "Triton," there is no spawn on any.

The fossil genus *Hoploparia* is undoubtedly closely allied to this genus, and probably represented it in the ancient seas; for *Hoploparia belli*, as figured by Salter and Woodward in their Chart of Fossil Crustacea, and by Bell in his Fossil Malacostracous Crustacea, although of larger dimensions, is very closely related to, and probably is a direct ancestor of the recent species. Our specimens of the genus *Nephropsis* are certainly immature forms, if we may judge from the fact that the external sexual foramina are not appreciable, and we may consequently assume that the internal organs are not fully developed in their present state. All the specimens recorded have been taken at a great depth in the sea.

Nephropsis stewarti was taken at 300 fathoms, *Nephropsis suhmi* at 800 fathoms, *Nephropsis rosea* at 700 fathoms; the temperature ranging from 39°·5 to 50° Fahr. (Wood-Mason), *Nephropsis atlantica* was taken in great abundance in the Færöe Channel, North Atlantic, and *Nephropsis agassizii* in the West Indies.

[1] *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, vol. xi. p. 684, 1882.