

On the afternoon of the 21st Mr. Murray went away in the dingey and visited several patches of floating driftwood, of which much had been observed on the surface during the past two days. Under the drift three or four varieties of small fishes and small slate-coloured crabs were captured by means of a scoop-net. The pieces of driftwood were covered with small specimens of *Lepas*; the arm of a cuttlefish (*Histioteuthis*) was picked up, and a sea-snake (*Pelamys bicolor*), three feet in length, was captured alive and brought on board. Several kinds of sea-weeds and fruits were also collected among the driftwood.¹ In some places there were large patches of *Collosphæra* and other Radiolaria, and a number of birds (*Phalaropus hyperboreus*) appeared to be feeding on them; wherever these patches of *Collosphæra* occurred the sea had an oily appearance. A *Balistes* was noticed among the fishes, and sharks were evidently feeding on the small fishes. Boobies alighted and sat upon the driftwood. The presence of *Peridinium*, *Noctiluca*, Diatoms, Annelid and other larvæ, as well as the driftwood, indicated fresh water, apparently derived from some large river in New Guinea. A school of porpoises came near the ship and lay lazily at the surface.

STATION 216A.

Station 217 (Sounding 355), Samboangan to New Guinea (see Chart 31 and Diagram 15).

STATION 217.

February 22, 1875; lat. $0^{\circ} 39' S.$, long. $138^{\circ} 55' E.$

Temperature of air at noon, $82^{\circ} \cdot 3$; mean for the day, $81^{\circ} \cdot 0$.

Temperature of water:—

Surface,	$83^{\circ} \cdot 0$	180 fathoms,	$51^{\circ} \cdot 9$
10 fathoms,	$83^{\circ} \cdot 0$	190 "	$50^{\circ} \cdot 8$
20 "	$83^{\circ} \cdot 0$	200 "	$49^{\circ} \cdot 7$
30 "	$83^{\circ} \cdot 0$	300 "	$45^{\circ} \cdot 1$
40 "	$82^{\circ} \cdot 9$	400 "	$42^{\circ} \cdot 5$
50 "	$82^{\circ} \cdot 5$	500 "	$40^{\circ} \cdot 7$
60 "	$81^{\circ} \cdot 4$	600 "	$39^{\circ} \cdot 2$
70 "	$80^{\circ} \cdot 0$	700 "	$38^{\circ} \cdot 1$
80 "	$78^{\circ} \cdot 3$	800 "	$37^{\circ} \cdot 3$
90 "	$76^{\circ} \cdot 4$	900 "	$36^{\circ} \cdot 7$
100 "	$74^{\circ} \cdot 0$	1000 "	$36^{\circ} \cdot 2$
110 "	$70^{\circ} \cdot 5$	1100 "	$35^{\circ} \cdot 7$
120 "	$66^{\circ} \cdot 5$	1200 "	$35^{\circ} \cdot 3$
130 "	$62^{\circ} \cdot 3$	1300 "	$35^{\circ} \cdot 2$
140 "	$58^{\circ} \cdot 6$	1400 "	$35^{\circ} \cdot 2$
150 "	$56^{\circ} \cdot 0$	1500 "	$35^{\circ} \cdot 2$
160 "	$54^{\circ} \cdot 2$	Bottom,	$35^{\circ} \cdot 2$
170 "	$53^{\circ} \cdot 0$		

¹ For description of the fruits collected in this locality see *Bot. Chall. Exp.*, pt. iii.