

state of growth. So irregular was the ground out to 35 fathoms that dredging was almost, if not quite, impossible; still by means of the swabs and tangles some corals were obtained. From 35 or 40 fathoms down to 150 fathoms dredging was equally difficult. Here a number of Sponges, Alcyonarians, Corals, and other invertebrates were obtained. Beyond 150 fathoms the bottom was a coral sand with volcanic minerals and pelagic shells. The soundings taken by the ship at depths of 420, 590, 620, and 680 fathoms showed the presence of a volcanic sand or mud, containing coral debris, fragments of Pteropods, Gasteropods, Coccoliths, with pelagic and other Foraminifera; the deposits at the greater depths contained about 19 per cent. of carbonate of lime.

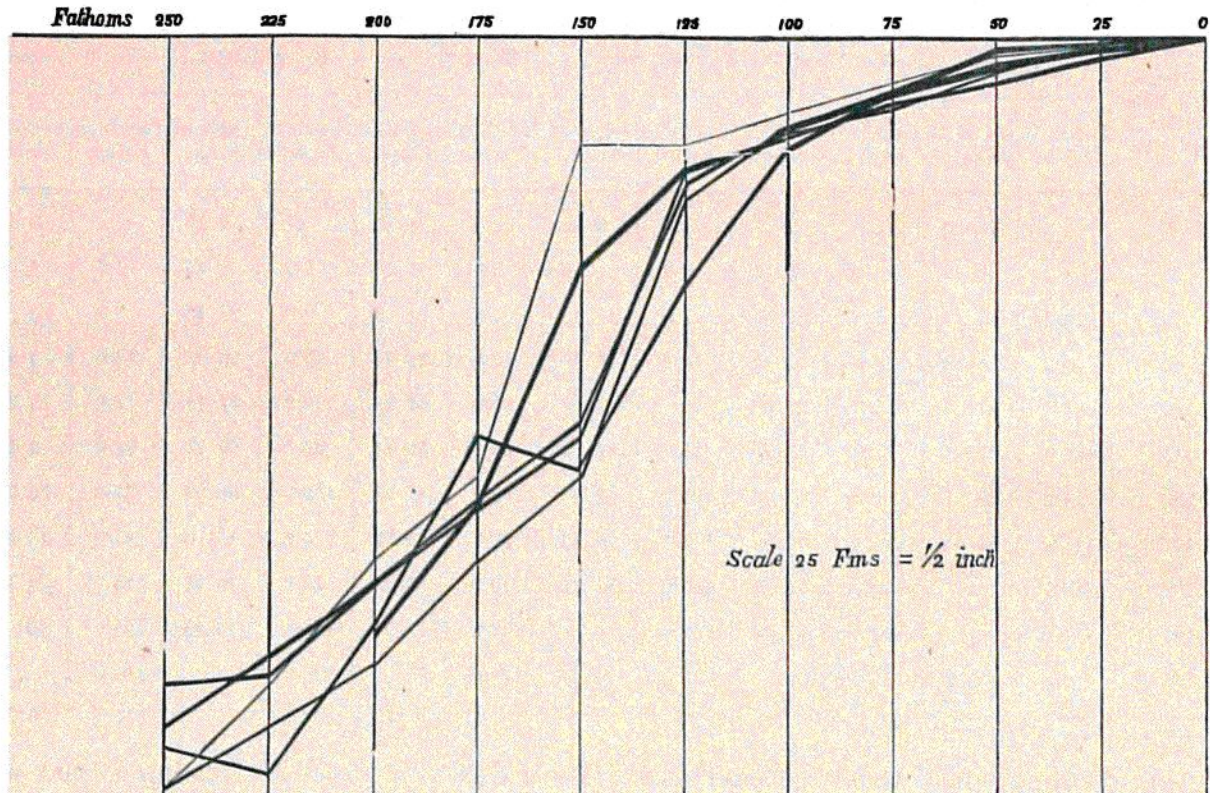


FIG. 271.—Profile of the Reefs on the six lines referred to in the foregoing Table.

Mr. Moseley says that in from 20 to 30 fathoms a *Mycedium* and a *Madrepora* were obtained different from those on the reefs and in shallow water. In from 30 to 70 fathoms were found the same *Mycedium*, a fragment of *Madrepora* (both probably from the former depth), and a small solitary *Balanophyllia*, which from its appearance very probably came from 50, 60, or 70 fathoms. Also in from 30 to 70 fathoms Alcyonarians and Sponges were obtained. One of the Alcyonarians is very hard, and looks like a Coral (*Porites*), but is seen in section not to be one. There were also several pieces of the *Mycedium*, a bit of the *Madrepora*, and several specimens of the *Balanophyllia*. There was also another calcareous organism forming large thin