

species new and old, with some 400 more indistinguishable forms, that is 1300 to 1400 in all.

“At thirty-nine places not reckoned as Stations, but where gatherings were made on the shore, in harbour, or in quite shallow water outside, 338 old species, 91 new, and 155 indistinguishable forms were found, or 584 in all, on an average 15 forms from each place.

“At fifty-seven Stations from 0 to 400 fathoms, 314 old species, 309 new species, and 196 indistinguishable forms were found, or 819 in all, an average of 14 forms from each Station.

“At thirty-seven Stations from 400 down to 2650 fathoms there were found 81 old species, 127 new, and 39 indistinguishable forms, or in all 247, rather less than 7 from each Station. The greatest depth from which any Gasteropod was obtained was 2650 fathoms, in the South Atlantic. The solitary specimen of *Stylifer brychius*, Watson, dredged at that depth was preserved in spirit, but I failed to extract the animal, owing to the shell being so delicate that no force could be used. The colour is that pale uniform buff so common in deep-sea Mollusca. With nearly, though not absolutely, uniform constancy the deeper the water the rarer were the specimens.

“The absolute number of species is thus obviously considerable, but as a representation of the whole sea bottom reached by the Expedition the result is very small.

“The cause of this fact is of course deserving of careful inquiry. The Mediterranean depths and the Sargasso Sea bottom are certainly poor in all life, but the ‘Blake’ dredgings by the United States Government in the Gulf of Mexico and up the course of the Gulf Stream seem to indicate an immense wealth of Molluscan life at very considerable depths, and the French Government dredgings in the North Atlantic, and especially along the west coast of Africa, point on the whole in the same direction, though there are indications of individual spots of great poverty; but to what the poverty of these spots is due—whether to stagnation of the water, nature of the ground, volcanic agencies, or currents—is not obvious.

“As regards the shells themselves, some forms of singular beauty have been found. Such are *Cassis wyvillei* from the Philippines in 115 fathoms (like, but quite distinct from, a very rare West Indian species), *Fusus pagodoïdes* from 410 fathoms off Sydney, *Provocator pulcher*, a new Volute from Kerguelen, and *Guivillea alabastrina*,¹ the latter, a pure white alabaster Volute of exceptional form, from a depth of 1600 fathoms in the Southern Ocean. Of all the Molluscs got by the Expedition, *Guivillea alabastrina* (see fig. 328) is certainly the most valuable. It is large; the shell is singularly beautiful in form and colour; it comes from a great depth, and its generic features are very peculiar. It is unfortunate that it is somewhat broken. In the act of its capture, or in the extraction of the animal, the shell must have been slightly crushed, and the fragments lost. To me it came most carefully packed in cotton-wadding; but one or two small pieces of

¹ Originally described under the generic name “*Wyvillea*,” which was afterwards found to be preoccupied.