

over that region we had found a great uniformity of conditions. As already mentioned, the average bottom temperature throughout was a little below the freezing-point of fresh water, and it sometimes fell to nearly 2° C. below the zero of the centigrade scale. The bottom was uniformly gravel and clay, the gravel on the Scottish side of the channel consisting chiefly of the *débris* of the laurentian gneiss and the other metamorphic rocks of the North of Scotland, and the devonian beds of Caithness and Orkney. On the Færoe side of the channel, on the other hand, the pebbles were chiefly basaltic. This difference shows itself very markedly in the colour and composition of the tubes of annelids, and the tests of sundry foraminifera. The pebbles are all rounded, and the varying size of the pebbles and roughness of the gravel in different places give evidence of a certain amount of movement of material along the bottom.

There seems to be but little doubt, from the direction of the series of depressions in the isothermal lines of the region (Pl. 7), that there is a direct movement of cold water from the Spitzbergen Sea into the North Sea, and that a branch of this cold indraught passes into the Færoe Channel. The fauna of the cold area is certainly characteristic, although many of its most marked species are common to the deep water of the warm area whenever the temperature sinks below 2° or 3° C.

Over a considerable district in the Færoe Channel there is a large quantity of a sponge which is probably identical with *Cladorhiza abyssicola*, Sars, dredged by G. O. Sars in deep water off the Loffoten Islands. This sponge forms a kind of