

a mass of intermediate forms; and although after careful consideration I have described the two species as distinct, I find it a matter of great difficulty to draw the line between them. Several specimens of a handsome *Astrogonium* allied to *A. granulare* were taken on the 'Adventure' Bank. Professor Duncan reports some interesting corals, and Professor Allman two new species of *Aglaophenia*; and Dr. Carpenter detected once more the delicate *Orbitolites tenuissimus*, and the large nautiloid *Lituola*, with which he was familiar in the dredgings in the Atlantic.

After a short stay at Malta, on September 20th the 'Porcupine' steamed out of Valetta Harbour, and steered in a north-easterly direction, towards a point seventy miles distant, at which a depth of 1700 fathoms was marked on the chart. This was reached early the next morning, and the line ran out 1743 fathoms, lat. $36^{\circ} 31' 30''$ N., long. $15^{\circ} 46' 30''$ (No. 60), with a temperature of $13^{\circ} \cdot 4$ C., more than half a degree higher than the temperature of the deepest sounding in the western basin. The tube of the sounding apparatus brought up a sample of yellow clay, so like the bottom at some of the most unproductive spots in the western Mediterranean, that it was not considered advisable to delay the time necessary for even a single cast of the dredge, which at that depth would have occupied nearly a day. Having thus satisfied themselves as far as they could by a few observations that the physical conditions of the eastern basin of the Mediterranean were similar to those of the western, they steered for the coast of Sicily. Quietly along the Sicilian coast