

2 inches. The walls are of the most delicate tissue, recalling spun glass, and resembling finest transparent lace, or rather Shetland wool work. The lower end is surrounded by an upturned fringe of long, lustrous, glassy fibres, and the wide end, after giving off from its edge a fluted lacy frill, is closed by a delicate lid of open network. Hitherto these beautiful objects have only been obtained from the seas of the Philippine Islands, where they live buried in the mud at the depth of 100 fathoms; so those obtained then were considered a most interesting addition to the fauna of Europe.

Our last cast of the trawl before reaching Gibraltar was to the depth of 2125 fathoms; the result was very satisfactory. A number of things came up—starfish mainly, and holothurids; but among them was one species of great interest, historical as well as zoological, the clustered sea-polyp, *Umbellularia Groenlandica*; twelve gigantic alcyonarian polyps, each with eight long fringed arms terminating in a close cluster on a stem 3 feet high. Two specimens of this fine species were brought from the coast of Greenland early in the last century; somehow these were lost, and for a century the animal was never seen. A year or two since two were taken by the Swedish scientific expedition, and this obtained by us must be considered as the third specimen of this rare marine animal.

On the evening of the 17th January we passed