Quantities of gasteropods (most likely a species of Buccinum) creep into the nets, and form a very serviceable bait, just as on the eastern side of the Atlantic. Afterwards they remove to the southern portion of the bank, where they were when we met them. This was, according to the captain, lat. 44° 30′ N., and long. 53° 34′ W. The cod spawn here in July, and were just on the point of doing so. They were from 60 centimetres to over a metre long, and upon inspecting the catches of several dories (flat-bottomed boats used for cod-fishing in Norway also) we found the roes to be quite mature. The fishermen also catch squid (Gonatus fabricii; see Fig. 98) with a grapnel

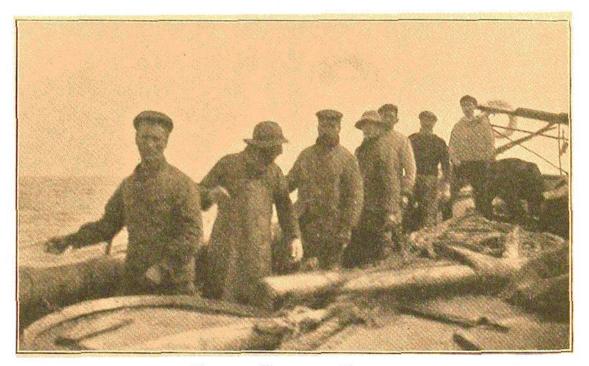


FIG. 97.—HAND-LINE FISHING.

—a red piece of metal with hooks all round it—exactly in the same way as they are caught on the north and west coasts of Norway.

After July the fishermen work their way northwards, probably because the cod move northwards along the bank as the cold water recedes during the course of the summer. According to their statements, which would justify a thorough investigation, there are for the most part only small-sized cod farther south and west on the banks off Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island, or on what they call the "Banquereau." Is it perhaps the case here too, as in Norway and Iceland, that the larvæ and young fish drift with the current and grow into cod far away from the place where they were spawned?

On the Norwegian coast the cod chiefly spawn between