



FIG. 356.
Rhizocrinus lofotensis, G. O. Sars. Magnified.
 (After Wyville Thomson.)

whole extent. They thrive well apparently on sandy bottom, wherever it is covered with fragments of shells, to which they may attach themselves, and this is even better seen in the central portion of the North Sea. The "Michael Sars" found hydroid-bottom, of the kind described, on the northern portion of the North Sea plateau, on the Faroe plateau east and west of those islands and on the large bank to the south of them, on the Iceland-Faroe ridge, and on the south-eastern Iceland plateau.

A number of species belonging to different groups, which among the skerries and in the western fjords of Norway are littoral forms, or at any rate only occasionally descend below the lower limit of the littoral zone, occur at greater depths out on the plateaus, where they are sometimes very plentiful.

During the cruise of the "Michael Sars" we found on the eastern Faroe plateau, at a depth of 110 metres, on sandy shell-strewn bottom: *Cucumaria frondosa*, *Strongylocentrotus dröba-chiensis*, *Pandalus annulicornis*, *Pagurus bernhardus*, *Asterias rubens*, *Mytilus modiolus*, *Buccinum undatum*, *Alcyonium digitatum*, and on the Faroe Bank, south-west of the Faroe Islands, at about 125 metres, *Echinus esculentus* and *Ophiura albida*. On the banks around the Faroes beyond the 100-metres line there