were: *Spatangus purpureus*, *Echinocardium*, *Echinaster sanguinolentus*, *Luidia sarsi*, *Hippasterias plana*, *Ophiopholis aculeata*, *Ophiothrix fragilis*, *Scaphander*, *Hyas coarctatus*, *Pagurus pubescens*, *Inachus dorhynchus*, *Stenorhynchus longirostris*, the annelids *Thelepus circinnatus* and *Leodice norvegica* (both very common), etc. Some of these are mainly littoral forms on our coasts. *Inachus dorhynchus* and *Stenorhynchus longirostris* seem to have a more westerly distribution than the rest, the former being very rarely, and the latter never, found near the Scandinavian coasts, though two other species (*Inachus dorsettensis* and *Stenorhynchus rostratus*) do occur there; these four forms are all met with on the North Sea coasts of Great Britain. From the deep part of the plateaus we may mention the comparatively rare *Rhizocrinus lofotensis* (see Fig. 356), which is fixed in the mud by root-like off-shoots.

Shell-covered banks.

One locality examined by the "Michael Sars" in 1902 is entitled to special notice, viz. the extensive Faroe Bank to the south-west of the Faroes, where the bottom at a depth of 100 to 300 metres is peculiar, being quite covered with an enormous quantity of empty shells of different mussels,[1] with a few living specimens among them.[2] The empty shells were pure white, and it was interesting to see how this white colour affected the other bottom-animals, fishes as well as invertebrates. A couple of species of *Raia*, for instance, had large white spots, and a flounder (*Pleuronectes limanda*) had assumed the light colour of the bottom; *Ophiura albida*, which on our coasts and elsewhere is of a blackish-brown colour, was here perfectly white, and the spines of *Echinus esculentus* were far lighter in colour than usual. *Astacilla longicornis*, which climbed about among the hydroids, had on the other hand assumed their green hue.

The geological significance of these shell-covered banks (there are several round the Faroe islands, and fossil shells are also found on the Norwegian coast-banks) has been discussed at considerable length by Professor Brögger.[3] They are generally believed, like the Norwegian coast-banks and the plateaus round the Shetlands, etc., to have stood at a higher level during the glacial and inter-glacial periods, forming part of the littoral region of the sea-floor, and to have since subsided. The fossil remains of animals that along our coasts nowadays appear to be able to live, or at any rate to thrive, only in shallower waters are taken as proof of subsidence, it being assumed that with the subsidence of the bottom this shallow-water fauna became extinct.

[1] *Pectunculus glycimeris*, *Venus casina*, *Tellina crassa*, *Arca tetragona*, *Tapes edulis*.

[2] *Pectunculus glycimeris*, *Venus casina*, *Tellina crassa*, *Mactra elliptica*, *Psammobia tellinella*, and *Dosinia*.

[3] "Om de senglaciale og postglaciale nivaaforandringer i Kristianiafeltet (Molluskfaunaen)," *Norges geol. Undersögelse*, No. 31, pp. 106, etc., Kristiania, 1900-1901.