

run off-shore and on the eastern side run towards the land. The distribution of the Sargasso weed also furnishes evidence, for, wherever found it has actually been derived from the shore, and, as we know, the Sargasso weed covers a vast area of the western part of the Atlantic. Even the Sargasso weed must become detritus. Hensen has shown that the tufts of this weed gradually become overgrown with heavy bryozoa, which causes them to sink, and then they are gradually disintegrated, being transformed into detritus while sinking, and furnishing nourishment for the animals in deep water. During the cruise of the "Michael Sars" the deep waters of the western part of the ocean proved to contain a far more abundant animal life than the corresponding depths in the eastern part. We have seen from Chapter IX. that by far the greater number of the Pteropoda collected, about 3500 or 4000 specimens, were taken in the south-western portion of our track, that is in the Sargasso Sea, and the same remark applies to the pelagic fishes, for instance *Cyclothone microdon*. In giving some figures in support of this, I wish to point out that these figures must only be looked upon as relative values, and are therefore only suited for a comparison between different localities.

I choose for comparison two stations east of the Sargasso Sea, between the Canaries and the Azores (Stations 42 and 49), and two stations in the Sargasso Sea (Stations 62 and 64), and indicate the number of specimens taken at corresponding depths with the same fishing gear :—

	East of the Sargasso Sea.		In the Sargasso Sea.	
	Station 42.	Station 49.	Station 62.	Station 64.
Young - fish trawl, 1000 metres .	6	8	90	448
Large tow-net, 1500 metres . . .	9	14	76	332

In northern boreal waters, like the Norwegian Sea, the water-layers of the coast banks cover nearly the whole of the deep area ; we know this because many of the animals which are born on the coast banks are found to have drifted out into the waters above the deep area. Are also the detritus and dissolved substances carried so far from the shore ? How far is the abundant life peculiar to boreal waters due to supplies