

venient. Their great disadvantage is that if the bottles on which they are fixed get wet they are apt to come off.

Pencils are sold by seed-merchants for writing on tallies which are to be exposed to rain. Perhaps the safest plan is to mark the number and date with such a pencil on a shred of parchment or parchment paper, and put it *into* the bottle. This may seem a trifling detail, but so great inconvenience constantly arises from carelessness in this matter, that I feel sure of the sympathy of all who are interested in the scientific aspect of dredging when I insist upon the value of accurate labelling.

It is of even greater importance that certain circumstances relating to every individual haul of the dredge should be systematically noted, either in the dredger's diary, or on a special form prepared for the purpose. The precise position of the station ought to be defined in shore dredging by giving the distance from shore and the bearings of some fixed objects; in ocean dredging by noting accurately the latitude and longitude. In the '*Lightning*,' in 1868, we dredged at a station about 100 miles to the north of the Butt of the Lews, and came upon a singular assemblage of interesting animal forms. Next year, in the '*Porcupine*,' we were anxious to try again the same spot to procure some additional specimens of a sponge which we were studying. The position had been accurately given in the log of the '*Lightning*,' and the first haul at a depth of upwards of half a mile gave us the very same group of forms which we had taken the year before. On our return Captain Calver again dropped the dredge