

south, or else are true natives, nowadays at any rate widely distributed throughout the northern seas. Most of the forms met with in the central portion are also to be found along the coasts, but numbers of forms frequenting the coasts, especially shallow-water forms, do not inhabit the plateaus.

We have not at present sufficient information to describe in detail other plateaus in depths less than 100 metres. The "Michael Sars" occupied two stations in 50 to 100 metres, off south-eastern and south-western Norway, where the fauna did not appear to differ from that in the outer part of the fjords and in the island belt. Certain forms (for instance *Balanoglossus*, taken off Risør on the south-east coast) have, however, not been taken in the western fjords nor in the central North Sea, but they have been recorded from the west coast of Sweden (Bohuslän). At the localities mentioned we were able to observe the remarkable fact that certain forms (for instance *Echinus esculentus*, *Asterias rubens*, *Ophiothrix fragilis*) occur in comparatively deep water, while in the fjords and island belts they generally occur in the littoral zone only.

The investigations of C. G. J. Petersen in the Skagerrack show, as far as we can judge from his short statements, a marked similarity to the conditions prevailing in the North Sea. At present it is impossible to enter into a detailed account, and we can only state that along with the similarity there are certain discrepancies: thus, for instance, the pennatulid *Pennatula phosphorea* has not been captured by the "Michael Sars" in the central North Sea, but it is frequent on the Norwegian North Sea plateau and in the Kattegat.

2. *Continental Plateaus covered by more than 100 Metres of Water.*—The different lands bounding the Norwegian Sea and North Sea form the emerged portions of larger or smaller submarine plateaus. The bottom on these plateaus varies considerably, though, generally speaking, it may be described as a mixture of stones and rock together with fine or coarse sand; only exceptionally, and in the deeper portions, is it composed of mud. The character of the bottom renders investigations extremely difficult, and the fauna is therefore not so well known as that of the fjords. Where the bottom is covered with softer material the fauna resembles that of the fjords. This is particularly the case in the Norwegian depression or gut, Norwegian depression. running parallel to the Norwegian coast from the latitude of Stat to the Skagerrack. The depth in the middle averages