

approximately 300 or 400 metres, till we come to the inner portion of the Skagerrack where it increases to about 700 metres. The bottom consists of soft mud throughout, except for a long narrow strip of stones and rock that penetrates its north-eastern portion. On the one side the depression is bounded by the Norwegian coast-plateau, which is here only a few miles wide, and on the other side by the plateaus of the North Sea and Skagerrack.

During the cruise of the "Michael Sars" in 1902 investigations were made with the trawl and dredge in its northern portion, the principal forms found being as follows:—

Echinoderms: *Stichopus tremulus* (in quantities), *Bathyplores tizardi*,¹ *Cucumaria hispida*, *Myriotrochus vitreus*, *Amphiura norvegica*, *Ophioscolex glacialis*, *Ophiura sarsi*, *Asteronyx loveni* (on *Funiculina*), *Schizaster fragilis*, *Brissopsis lyrifera*, *Spatangus raschi*, *Psilaster andromeda*, *Pontaster tenuispinus*.

Crustaceans: *Pontophilus norvegicus*, *Pandalus bonnierii*.

Ascidians: *Ascidia obliqua*.

Molluscs: *Abra longicallis*, *Malletia obtusa*, *Portlandia lucida*, *Axinus flexuosus*, *Pecten septemradiatus*, *Sipho islandicus*, *Scaphander punctostriatus*, *Antalis agilis*, *Siphonentalis tetragona*, *Cadulus subfusiformis*.²

Worms: *Lumbrinereis fragilis*, *Lætmonice flicornis*, *Aricia* sp., *Terebellides strömi*.

Gephyreans: *Sipunculus priapuloides*.

Cœlenterates: *Bolocera tuediæ*, *Actinostola callosa*, *Kophobelemnion stelliferum*, *Funiculina quadrangularis*, *Ulocyathus arcticus*.

Sponges: *Thenea muricata*.

Also the foraminifera *Astrorhiza* and *Rhabdammina*, though these are not numerous.

These animal forms make it tolerably certain that the fauna in the Norwegian depression is practically identical with the Atlantic fauna in the boreal region of the Scandinavian peninsula, and closely resembles the fauna of the western fjords of Norway. Petersen's researches have revealed similar conditions in the deepest portion of the Skagerrack. But along with the fjord forms, which exceed the others in numbers, there is a fauna in the Norwegian depression composed of forms seldom or never occurring among the skerries and in the fjords, but having their home on the plateaus of the open sea.³

¹ On the other hand, *Mesothuria intestinalis* has not been found by the "Michael Sars" nor by other Norwegian and Danish Expeditions.

² This species was found by the Norwegian North Atlantic Expedition.

³ To this fauna I assign the following forms:—Echinoderms: *Spatangus raschi*, *Pontaster tenuispinus*; Molluscs: *Sipho islandicus*, *Antalis agilis*; Crustaceans: *Pandalus bonnierii*; Cœlenterates: *Ulocyathus (Flabellum) arcticus*.