GIAN'T SQUID: THE QUEST FOR THE KRAKEN.

By W. J. Rees, D.Sc.

EVERY now and then a wanderer on a lonely stretch of coast comes across a strange animal that has been washed up by the winter gales. One of the strangest of these is a torpedo-shaped object, with eight or ten long tentacles at one end and a bunch of tentacles at the other. This can be readily recognised as a squid. Sometimes it is a very large one. True giants among the squids are secured for scientific study. This can be readily gales.

A few tentacles at the other. This can be readily gales.

giant squid now aroused the interest of the American naturalist A. E. Verrill, who, with the willing cooperation of Harvey and by enlisting the help of the Gloucester, Mass., fishermen and the whaling masters, amassed sufficient fragments to enable him to make a good reconstruction of two species, one of these being Architeuthis dux, in honour of his friend.

The habits of Architeuthis are still a matter of speculation, but it is possible to draw a few conclusions from what we already know. Most specimens have been found in the Grand Bank area of Newfoundland, on the American coast, and on the coasts of North-West Europe and Iceland. This is a curious distribution, and suggests that there are two main concentrations of population, one east and one west, but this is by no means as simple as it looks. In the Newfoundland area we get a concentration of records that at once suggests some unfavourable hydrographic conditions killing off individuals which have wandered away from their normal haunts. It is well known that squids in general succumb quickly to a sudden lowering of temperature, and the rapid changes which occur where the cold Labrador current meets the warm water of the Gulf Stream would appear to satisfy all the conditions.

This, however, is mere speculation, but it is borne out by the spread records of this species, the North European coastline, where temperature changes are not so abrupt and where strandings are found to be much more irregular and infrequent. The former frequently made statements that recognisable fragments were vomited by sperm whales in their death fury, while the latter occasionally finding sperm on the surface and cut them up for bait. It was, however, the enthusiasm of the Rev. Moses Harvey, of St. Johns, Newfoundland, which made the giant and almost complete specimens landed available for study. This species, known as the Logie Bay Architeuthis, became entangled in herring nets in November, 1873, and was preserved through the efforts of Harvey. The original photographs, of which one is reproduced here, were派遣 by the Governor to Lord Kimberley at the Colonial Office, and are now in the British Museum (Natural History).

The “little Head,” of course, refers to the siphon through which water is pumped out to propel the squid through the water.

An even earlier stranding, on the coast of Iceland in 1639, is mentioned by Jepet Steenstrup, the Danish zoologist, who first undertook the unravelling of the giant squid problem. Steenstrup was able to confirm the existence of giant squids from various fragments which reached him—a pair of jaws from one, a tentacle from another, and so on. Whalesmen and cod-fishermen working during the 19th century in Newfoundland waters had long been familiar with big squids, and were positive in their assertions of their existence. Additional evidence that temperature controlling factor is provided by the fact that most strandings have taken place in the autumn and winter months. The strandings have yet to be written, however, there is no doubt that changes in salinity, disease, parasites and food conditions are the factors. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.

It will be seen that there is much we do not know about the giant squid, and every stranding is a new and unusual event. There must therefore be a big population of Architeuthis in the normal haunts of the whale, which lies outside the 100-fathom line. Structurally Architeuthis gives the impression of being a rather sluggish squid without the great swimming powers of its smaller cousin, Thedius. To sum up, Architeuthis appears to live a somewhat sluggish life in deep water of 100-200 fathoms on the edge of continents in moderately warm water. It is the straggler, driven far from its normal haunts, which comes to grief on our shores.