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## THE LIVING CHIMÆRA AND ITS EGG.

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Few naturalists have ever had the advantage of seeing alive that somewhat rare and profoundly interesting fish, the oceanic Chimæra or Rabbit Fish. Its grotesque outline and staring eyes so impressed Frank Buckland that he pronounced it "worthy the imagination of the most barbarous Chinaman that ever designed a figure-head for a piratical war-junk." In 1891 two or three specimens were obtained off Achill Head, Co. Mayo, at a depth of 127 fathoms, but as I had just left the vessel, the "Fingal," on which I was acting as naturalist to the Fisheries Survey, I missed seeing these remarkable examples alive. In 1895, during my cruise along the Pacific Coast, I had the privilege on many occasion of examining living specimens, the species occurring there (viz *Chimæra collaei*, Bennett) being netted fairly numerous in the inshore waters. In British and Norse seas the Chimæra is taken at considerable depths, say 70 to 200 fathoms; but in British Columbia this fish is frequently found in the drag seines used for taking salmon this kind of net being necessarily hauled in very shallow bay and estuaries.

The length of the fish varies from 12 inches to 30 or 36 inches and the head is disproportionately large, bluntly tapering in front, flattened on the top, and below sloping back to the mouth, which is quite underneath the head, some distance from the tip of the snout as in the sharks. The long body narrows