

amining the structure of these rare specimens. Like the Scottish examples, they were over half an inch in length, oval in shape, and of a whitish yellow colour. The colour is due to the creamy yoke inside the horny shell, for the shell is very transparent, and somewhat thickened at the apices. Each end or apex of the egg rose into a protruding mound, from which projected forty or fifty slender threads, about a fifth of an inch long. At its root each thread was enlarged and outspread, but diminished distally and became slender, until near the free tip, it enlarged again and expanded in the flattened form of a hooked head. They cannot be described simply as "thread-shaped hooks," to use Ludwig's phrase, or as "knobbed processes," according to Professor Thomson's description. They vary so much in shape that hardly two are alike. Most of them may be likened to a bent and half-closed hand, the wrist very slender and the fingers much flattened. Inside each finger tip, a cushion or pad studded with short but very sharp points occurs. Some of the expanded hands or heads possess two fingers only, others have three, but a great many have four, and a few seem to possess five. Usually the fingers are curved over as described, but many are bent in various ways, some turned up, or twisted sideways, just as the fingers of the hand may be variously contorted. The whole of the flattened edge of the "finger tip" may in some cases be studded with minute denticles or teeth; indeed these toothed surfaces are so variously turned that they grasp or cling to anything and everything which comes in contact with them. When once hooked to any object they are as difficult to detach as some of the familiar seeds which cling to one's clothing when walking through the bush. The eggs were entangled with each other when I first examined them, and they could be separated only at the risk of tearing off some of the hooked threads.

These rare and interesting specimens were procured by a Bay of Fundy fisherman, attached to each other, and to the rope or line of a baited trawl set for pollack, between Campbell's Island and the Wolves, New Brunswick, where the depth ranges from 40 to 50 and, in some places, 70 fathoms. The parent fish are said to burrow in the mud or sand at depths of 40 to 300 fathoms, and to protrude the snout only, so that they are rarely procured, excepting when they emerge and swim about in search of prey. As already stated, they bore into hooked cod and haddock, passing eel-like into the abdominal cavity of the fish, or at times they suck in the baited hook set for superior fish, and the hook is swallowed so far down the gullet that the fishermen usually cut off the head of the hagfish, to make them disgorge the hook being practically impossible.