

backward, like the finger of a glove turned inside out. The animal now manages to withdraw its fore legs from their covering, and, by means of convulsive contortions, to writhe its whole body out of its loosened tunic, taking the skin in its mouth and pulling it over the hind legs and tail. It then retires for a time into private life till a brand new coat grows of itself—a highly convenient arrangement which some of us would like, if possible, to imitate, although our tailors would probably object to its general adoption.

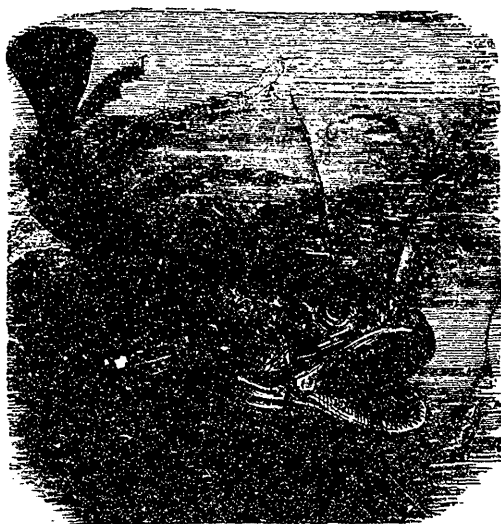


FIG. 8.—THE ANGLER.

One of the most hideous objects in the Aquarium is the angler, (*Lophius piscatorius*,) delineated in Fig. 8. This crafty creature lies concealed on the muddy or weed-grown bottom, from which, on account of its dun-coloured skin, it can with difficulty be distinguished. From its upper jaw projects forward a spine-like tentacle, from the extremity of which

dangles a bit of fleshy-looking membrane. The small fishes, which are the natural prey of this guileful deceiver, are attracted by this tempting bait; but no sooner do they touch it than they are instantly engulfed in the voracious maw of the monster, which closes on them with the promptness and vigour of a steel trap.

The strange-looking fish shown in Fig. 9 is that popularly known as the dory or John-dory. This is an English corruption of the French name *jaune doree*, descriptive of its golden yellow colour. From its plume-like appendages it is called by the