

Between Lighthouse and Deep Sea



Hauling a Man up into Eddystone

About fourteen miles south-west of Plymouth Hoe the famous and world-wide known Eddystone Lighthouse can be seen rearing its lofty tower. The lighthouse, which is built of grey granite with a red lantern and gallery, stands approximately 168 ft. above low water mark, and shows two flashes of light every half minute during the night, and by day and night during a fog or thick weather the fog signal gives one report every five minutes. The light, which is of 292,000 candle power, is shown from a biform or double lens, inside which are two powerful incandescent oil lamps. The interior of the tower is divided up into nine rooms, which are kept spick and span by the three keepers. These men have two months at the rock and one month on shore, the relief of the station thus taking place once every month. In the interval, with the exception of the Trinity tender which brings the stores for the maintenance of the light and so forth, scarcely anyone lands at this isolated rock, and the keepers perform their never-ending round of duties conscious that it is a work of great responsibility and trust. Many are the watchful officers of the great liners who look for this tower by day and its light by night, when coming home from America, Africa, or Australia, and many are the passengers who look forward to seeing it as the first sign of terra firma. As will be seen from the illustration the relief of the lighthouse is not always an easy matter. The boat has to be moored bow on the rock and with an anchor out astern. The sea rushes with great violence at times, and happy is the man who is then brought up into the tower without a ducking.