

A METHOD OF MOORING A FLOATING BEACON IN DEEP WATER

by

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LATELY IN COMMAND OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SURVEYING SHIP *Iroquois*.

It is occasionally necessary, such as when carrying out an examination of an Ocean Bank, to moor a Beacon in deep water. The following description of a method successfully adopted in a depth of 1,625 fathoms may therefore be of interest.

The ship having arrived in the desired position, a deep sea sounding was obtained using a LUCAS Pattern Sounding Machine, but without a Driver Rod, the weight (90 lbs) being secured to the 20 gauge sounding wire by means of a 1 1/2 inch tremp tail line, 20 fathoms in length. Bottom having been reached, another 40 fathoms of wire was allowed to run out and a wire stopper was then placed on it. The inboard end was then cut and secured to a thimble at the end of a 1/2 inch wire 8 fathoms long secured to the chain mooring sling of the beacon, which had previously been hoisted outboard ready for slipping. The stopper was then taken off the sounding wire, beacon slipped and bight of wire thrown overboard.

This beacon retained its position without dragging although a moderate swell was running but little wind, the nature of the bottom being mud.

NOTE. — (1) The thimble to which the inboard end of the sounding wire is secured should be well parcelled with either canvas or sheet lead to prevent chafe.

(2) The Beacon was subsequently recovered, but it was not found practicable to weigh the moorings which were therefore cut.

