

purpose of proceeding upon a voyage of scientific discovery and deep-sea exploration in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, descending into the Southern or Antarctic Ocean as far as the ice would permit. For some months previous to the date of her commission she had been in the hands of the dockyard officials, undergoing great changes both in equipment and internal accommodation, so as to fit her with every possible means for furthering the great work in hand. For the use of the scientific staff, of which Professor Wyville Thomson was the director, there was built an ample and compact work-room, containing numerous drawers and receptacles fitted with bottles and jars for holding specimens of organic ocean life, and a well-stocked library of professional books in various languages.

Here also were provided numerous instruments for dissection and microscopic observation, long tubes for preserving rare specimens, harpoons, and many ingenious devices for entrapping and securing larger game than the dredge can possibly furnish.

On the opposite side of the deck, and somewhat farther forward, was placed the chemical laboratory for the purpose of analysing and testing the seawater obtained from the different depths: here were ranged retorts, stills, tubes of all sizes, hydrometers, thermometers, blow-pipes—in fact, all the usual paraphernalia found in laboratories; chemicals in drawers, and jars in racks; all secured from accident