

where the specimens in the collection differ from the descriptions of the typical specimens, such differences have been noted ; and where additional characters or interesting varietal forms are present, these are described often at considerable length. Re-examination and re-description of many of the old scattered type specimens are urgently required, and when these are forthcoming it is likely that some of the forms referred to old species, to which they present decided likeness, though differing in many stated particulars, will be found to be sufficiently characterized to be ranked as distinct species. Of the generic grouping of the large number of species described by Dana in his great work on the Zoophytes of the United States Exploring Expedition, the valuable revised list by Verrill, published in Dana's Corals and Coral Islands, is taken as the scheme ; exception being made, however, in one or two instances in the revised specific determination. Revised specific *descriptions* with figures, however, are urgently needed of many of these forms.

Detailed synonymy of the species described by the old authors has not been given, since it has already been given at length by Milne-Edwards and Haime in their classical work, *Histoire naturelle des Coralliaires* ; more modern synonyms of different species have been mentioned or indicated, however, in those cases where the synonymy is obvious.

Besides the reference to the description given by the author of the species, reference has been made in almost every case both to the re-description as given by Milne-Edwards and Haime in their great work, which thus serves as a handbook of reference for the species of the old authors, and to those later works in which additional light is thrown on the characters and affinities of the older as well as of the more recently described species, while additional references are given to those works in which good figures of the species are to be found.

No priority is given in any case to manuscript names ; the published descriptions being alone referred to.

ON DISTRIBUTION.

In the treatment of the distribution of the Reef-Corals, lists have been given of the species which were obtained at each locality, together with lists of the new species, and of the old species which are now recorded for the first time from each station ; while an attempt has been made to furnish in each case a complete list of the recognised species now known to occur there.

In order to give some idea of the local conditions under which the Corals flourish on the reefs, quotations bearing on the point have been given in all cases, where possible, from the observations of Professor Moseley, as stated in each case ; unfortunately, however, the information at hand gives little or nothing of the conditions or surroundings peculiar to individual species. For information of this kind to be of any value, detailed