

satisfactory knowledge of these various details from an examination of the Special Memoirs without great labour.

It has appeared to me that, in the present state of science, the most useful and valuable form of summary of the work of the Expedition which I can attempt is a concise statement of the observations carried out, and of the scientific results obtained, at each of the several Challenger Observing Stations at sea. In the following pages, accordingly, summaries of this nature are presented in the belief that these detailed accounts of what has been accomplished at definite localities will not only prove of great assistance to all engaged in the study of oceanic phenomena, but will also serve as a guide to the future explorer who desires to fill up gaps in our knowledge, and to contribute to the rapidly advancing science of Oceanography.

Many of the organisms captured in the dredge and trawl did not for various reasons reach the authors of the Special Memoirs. These were chiefly delicate animals, mutilated beyond specific identification by being hauled through the water from great depths, or by expansion of air and other gases relieved from great pressure. A complete list of the animals captured at each station was at the time, however, entered in the Station Book and in the journals of the naturalists together with notes as to the condition of the specimens when taken from the trawl. In the following summaries, the organisms now referred to are always reported in the station lists, in addition to those described in the Special Memoirs.

In like manner the names and general character of the organisms taken daily and sometimes hourly in the surface and sub-surface tow-nets were, after microscopic examination by the naturalists on board ship, entered in the note-books, along with numerous observations concerning the relative abundance of species and other matters of general or special interest. These remarks are now published, except where they have been rendered obsolete by subsequent discoveries.

In the preparation of these accounts of the work done, and the results obtained, at the Challenger Stations, I have made use of the official log and note-books, the published reports, and my own journals. I have also had in my possession the manuscript journals of my colleagues the late Professor H. N. Moseley and the late Dr. R. von Willemoes-Suhm; whenever I have made extracts from these, the authority has been given.