

Carpenter, M.A.; on the GEPHYREA by Professor Ray Lankester, F.R.S.; on the CHÆTOGNATHA by Dr Oscar Hertwig; on the MYZOSTOMIDÆ by Dr Ludwig Graff; on the MOLLUSCA GASTROPODA and LAMELLIBRANCHIATA by the Rev. R. Boog Watson, F.L.S.; on the CÆCIDÆ by the Marquis de Folin; on certain points in the Anatomy of MARSUPIALS by Dr Cunningham, F.R.S.E.; and on MARINE MAMMALS and on HUMAN CRANIA by Professor Turner, F.R.S., are in more or less advanced stages of preparation.

The preparation of two important volumes on the nature of the recent deposits on the bed of the ocean, and their bearing upon Geology and Petrology, has been undertaken by Mr John Murray, F.R.S.E. and the Rev. A. Renard, S.J.; and a volume on the general Chemical and Physical results will probably complete the series. A few large classes of marine animals are still unappropriated, but the staff have at present on hand about as much as they can well encounter, and I hope that some of the naturalists who are now occupied with other groups may find time, when they have finished these, to take up any which may still remain.

From the preceding lists of naturalists who have kindly undertaken to work up the different groups, it will be obvious that my function is simply that of Editor, that I cannot presume to interfere in any way with the *matter* of the various Memoirs, and that I am responsible only for those contributions to the Report which bear my own signature. I also consider myself entirely free to hold and to express an independent opinion on any question upon distribution or other general physical or biological conditions. I have issued to the naturalists engaged in the work a sample Memoir, showing the general form which, as Editor, I wish the book to assume, and all I can undertake to do at the Office is to bring the series as nearly as possible into uniformity as they pass through the press.