

in 1876¹ led me to give a general support to this classification, and further experience has not as yet shown the necessity for any material change. It is true there are some forms, such as the genus *Eulepis*, which almost merit the distinction of a separate family, but they have only recently been discovered, and may properly be left for further investigation.

SPECIES.

While perhaps some species might have been united, the difficulties surrounding the subject (arising chiefly from imperfect descriptions and figures of essential parts) have been considerable. It is hoped, however, that the present observations and drawings will enable subsequent observers to clear up the discrepancies. There can be no doubt, as A. S. Ærsted observed, that a single accurate figure, for instance of a characteristic hook or bristle, is of greater consequence in certain cases than an elaborate Latin description; moreover, experience does not altogether bear out the statement made by Hansen with regard to the Polynoidæ, viz., that the scales are of greater importance in specific separation than the bristles. A specimen certainly would be more easily and accurately determined with both scales and bristles present, but some, including myself, would consider a specimen of greater value with bristles and without scales, than with scales and without bristles.

No less than about two hundred and twenty *new* species fall to be noticed.

FOOD OF ANNELIDS.

In many cases the food of the Annelids has been examined, and as there can be no question (excluding surface forms) that this was obtained on the bottom of the ocean, the condition of the various types in their alimentary canals has a direct bearing on their bathymetrical distribution. Thus the almost perfect state of some organisms, for example, Foraminifera and Radiolaria, with their contained protoplasm in the digestive tracts of Annelids from great depths, leads us to conclude that in all probability they live there, and do not in all cases fall to the bottom for the nourishment of the fauna of that region. The discrimination shown by the Annelids in regard to food may readily be observed by contrasting the muddy contents of the alimentary canal with that forming the tube. Most feed on mud containing minute organisms, but others devour their neighbours, small Crustaceans, zoophytes, and sponges, while a few, such as certain Nereids and Eunicidæ, are partial to Fuci and other Algæ.

¹ *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, 1876-77, vol. ix. p. 372. This paper has escaped the notice of Dr. Pruvot in his *Recherches Anat. et Morphologiques sur les système Nerveux des Annelides Polychétés*, *Archives d. Zool. expér.*, 1885, No. 2, p. 210.