

No attempt has been made to give an account of the soft parts of the specimens which were preserved in spirit; for, apart from the consideration of want of time in which to carry out work of such a protracted nature and of such special difficulty, the circumstances and conditions under which the Report was written effectually prevented any such attempt being made. These specimens, however, were comparatively few in number, and moreover did not form part of the collection which was placed in my hands for examination. A systematic examination of them was nevertheless made, and the results incorporated in the Report.

Special attention must be called to the fact that the descriptions of the species apply to a specimen in which the calicles are perfect—a remark of much deeper significance than may appear. Owing to the fragile nature of many of the Corals, and more especially of their delicate septa, it is often an extremely difficult matter to prevent fracture of many of the parts. This is especially applicable to those species in which the septa are delicate and exsert; and about which there may be an entire misconception owing to injury of these parts. In many of the delicate specimens in the collection more or less considerable injury has taken place, which, however, has scarcely affected the more sheltered calicles in depressions of the surface or between the branches; and from these uninjured or less injured calicles the descriptions have been framed. A special case may be cited with reference to the genus *Galaxea*, in which species differ from each other notably in the exsert nature of the septa and in the prominence of the costæ. The degree of exsertness of the septa and of the prominence of the costæ may be considerably interfered with by a small amount of friction, and on the most exposed parts of the corallum it will in many cases be found that it is impossible to find an accurately shaped calicle. This is clearly evidenced in two new species of the genus in the collection, *Galaxea aspera*, and *Galaxea fragilis*. In the figures that are given of the corallum, natural size, the species in each case is represented as it occurs in the collection in its injured state; the real structure, as determined by a close examination of the less injured calicles, is shown approximately by a figure of a restored calicle.

As the number of plates was by request to be limited, only the new forms have been figured; and in nearly every case only a small portion of the corallum, natural size, has been represented to show the general character. The description of the species supplies the habit of the form; and to possess the complete figure it is only necessary to amplify the portion figured to the stated shape and size. For all essential purposes of identification, the portion figured is believed to be sufficient when taken with the various magnified views. Had each new species been figured to show the natural size of a characteristic specimen, with the additional magnified details, and had all the previously described species, of which no satisfactory figure exists, been also represented, the number of plates must have been increased at least tenfold.

No complete re-descriptions of previously described species are given, but in all cases