

Asiatic or Australian genera. But it should be mentioned that the time and means at the disposal of the Naturalists of the Expedition were quite inadequate for a full investigation of the flora of these groups. This part of the botany deals more especially with facts bearing upon the influence of oceanic currents on the dispersion of plants. And the drift seeds and seed-vessels collected by Mr. Moseley off the coast of New Guinea, together with stranded seeds from various parts of the world, are the subject of an Appendix."¹

It has been stated (p. 930) that the Diatomaceæ, collected in the tow-nets at the surface of the sea and procured from the deep-sea deposits by means of the dredge and trawl, will be described by Count Castracane in his Report.

The Challenger Collections and Publications.—When, in 1872, Professor C. Wyville Thomson was invited by the Government to take the post of Director of the Civilian Scientific Staff of the Challenger Expedition, the Senatus Academicus and the Court of the University of Edinburgh granted him leave of absence from the duties of his chair for three years, and when the Expedition did not return within that time they extended the leave for another year.

With the consent of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, it was arranged that the collections sent home during the voyage should be lodged in the University of Edinburgh till the return of the Expedition. Professor William Turner, F.R.S., undertook the temporary custody of these collections, and on the arrival of the consignments from the Cape of Good Hope, Australia, China, and Japan, personally superintended their examination for breakages. The boxes containing preserved specimens in spirit were opened, examined, and then replaced in the original boxes according to the catalogues. The Botanical collections made during the voyage were, however, on their arrival in England, sent direct to the Royal Gardens, Kew.

On the arrival of the Expedition in England, the collections brought home in the ship were also transported to Edinburgh, and then the whole of the collections were unpacked and temporarily arranged in a large house belonging to the University.

These extensive collections arrived in England without any mishap, and, generally speaking, in an excellent state of preservation. Among the thousands of bottles of all sizes, only three were broken. There had been very little evaporation of the spirit, and not a single specimen was missing according to the catalogues when they were unpacked in Edinburgh.

After a correspondence between Her Majesty's Treasury, the Council of the Royal Society, and the late Sir C. Wyville Thomson, it was arranged early in 1877 that the incidental or occasional collections made on shore during the Expedition, such as Mammals, Reptiles, Insects, should be sent at once *in globo* to the British Museum. The great bulk

¹ Appendix on the Dispersal of Plants by Oceanic Currents and Birds, Bot. Chall. Exp., part iii. p. 277, *et seq.*, 1885.