

This pleasant arrangement for joint research was, however, frustrated by the illness and death of Sir Wyville Thomson. I had, accordingly, to lay aside the whole work for a prolonged period, till, in March 1882, Mr. John Murray asked me to undertake the complete investigation of the Challenger Hexactinellida, and for this purpose, in the first instance, personally to undertake the separation of the latter from the rich collection of Sponges obtained during the expedition and preserved in Edinburgh. Having completed this in April of the same year, I received, in June, most of the Hexactinellida collected by the Challenger Expedition, which were forwarded to me at Graz in a well-packed condition. Subsequently, at my request, a few additional Hexactinellida, which were collected before by Sir Wyville Thomson and Mr. John Murray in the eastern part of the Atlantic, during the expeditions of the "Lightning," "Porcupine," "Knight Errant," and "Triton," were handed over to me for purposes of comparison, and also a number of microscopic preparations which had been made by Sir Wyville Thomson.

My material was afterwards very agreeably increased by the acquisition of a not unimportant collection of Hexactinellida, partly dry and partly preserved in alcohol, which Dr. Döderlein, Director of the Zoological Museum in Strassburg, had accumulated during a prolonged stay in Japan, partly as the result of his own collecting on the small island of Enoshima. This collection he very kindly placed at my disposal for investigation.

At my request the Challenger Commission agreed that I should include this valuable material in my work on the Challenger Hexactinellida, and approved of what thus necessarily involved an increase of plates. I therefore accepted the offer of Dr. Döderlein, and that all the more willingly since the increase of material considerably facilitated the systematic work. On the other hand, I was enabled to compare minutely a collection zealously and systematically made for several years from a definite locality remarkably rich in Hexactinellida, with that collected in the same locality by the Challenger Expedition.

As to the ways and means of acquiring this collection, which consisted of about twenty-five dried forms and three bottles of preserved specimens, Dr. Döderlein communicated to me the following notes:—"With the exception of a *Euplectella (oweni)* from Simonoseki on Kiushiu, the whole collection was gathered in Sagami Bay, near Enoshima. Most of the dried specimens were obtained from a shop in Enoshima, where they were collected for me by the owner. The three glasses with spirit contain specimens which I myself obtained with a trawling apparatus from depths varying from 80 to 240 fathoms, between Enoshima and Misaki. A few dead specimens which I obtained there have been sent dry. I have added a single specimen of *Hyalonema (sieboldii)* in which the sponge body is magnificently developed, but it is by no means the largest specimen which I brought with me."

Professor Oscar Schmidt of Strassburg was kind enough to hand over to me, for