

strup of Copenhagen, and Michael Sars of Christiania—were making perpetual advances in the knowledge of marine zoology. Milne-Edwards was illustrating the fauna of the coast of France, and Philippi, Grube, Oscar Schmidt, and others were continuing in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic the work so well begun by Donati, Olivi, Risso, Delle Chiage, Poli, and Cantraine; while Deshayes and Lacaze Duthiers illustrated the fauna of the coast of Algeria. So much progress had already been made at home and abroad, that in the year 1854 Edward Forbes considered that the time had arrived for giving to the public, at all events a preliminary sketch of the fauna of the European seas—a work which he commenced, but did not live to finish.

I need scarcely say that these operations of the British Association dredging committees were carried on generally under the idea that at the 100-fathom line, by which amateur work was practically limited, they approached the zero of animal life—a notion which was destined to be gradually undermined and finally completely overthrown. From time to time, however, there were not wanting men of great skill and experience to maintain, with Sir James Clark Ross, that “from however great a depth we may be enabled to bring up the mud and stones of the bed of the ocean, we shall find them teeming with animal life.” From the very general prevalence of the negative view there was little to stimulate to the investigation of the bottom at great depths, and data gathered very slowly.

I have already referred (p. 18 *et infra*) to the