

CHAPTER IX.

THE DEEP-SEA FAUNA.

The Protozoa of the Deep-sea.—*Bathybius*.—‘Coccoliths,’ and ‘Coccospheres.’—The Foraminifera of the Warm and Cold Areas.—Deep-sea Sponges.—The Hexactinellidæ.—*Rossella*.—*Hyalonema*.—Deep-sea Corals.—The Stalked Crinoids.—*Pentacrinus*.—*Rhizocrinus*.—*Bathycrinus*.—The Star-fishes of the Deep-sea.—The general Distribution and Relations of Deep-sea Urchins.—The Crustacea, the Mollusca, and the Fishes of the ‘Porcupine’ Expeditions.

THE time has not yet arrived for giving anything like a detailed account of the deep-sea fauna; even if it were possible to do so in a popular sketch of the general results of a wide investigation. I must therefore confine myself at present to a brief outline of the distribution of the forms of animal life which were met with in the belt partially examined during the ‘Porcupine’ dredgings, a belt which carries the British zoological area about a hundred miles further out to seaward along the northern and western coasts of the British Isles, and into depths extending from 200 fathoms, the previous limit of accurate knowledge, to 800 and 1,000 fathoms, and in one or two instances to the extreme depth of upwards of 2,000 fathoms.