

The remarkable general result that even to these great depths the fauna is varied and rich in all the marine invertebrate groups, has inundated us with new material which in several of the larger departments it will take years of the labour of specialists to work up. While referring very briefly to those orders which it has been found impossible as yet to overtake, I will enter a little more fully into the history of certain restricted groups which more particularly illustrate the conditions of the abyssal region, and the relations of its special fauna to the faunæ of other zoological provinces, or to those of earlier times. And very prominent among these special groups we find the first and simplest of the invertebrate sub-kingdoms, the Protozoa, represented by three of its classes,—the monera, the rhizopoda, and the sponges.

The monera have been lately defined as a distinct class by Professor Ernst Haeckel,<sup>1</sup> for a vast assemblage of almost formless beings, apparently absolutely devoid of internal structure, and consisting simply of living and moving expansions of jelly-like protoplasm; and although the special character on which Haeckel separates them from the remainder of the protozoa,—that they are propagated by no form of sexual reproduction, but simply by spontaneous division,—may probably prove deceptive as our knowledge increases, still their number, their general resemblance to one another, presenting obviously different and recognizable kinds although with very indefinable characters, and the important part which

<sup>1</sup> Biologische Studien. Von Dr. Ernst Haeckel, Professor an der Universität Jena. Leipzig, 1870.