

while one family type, the *Echinothuridæ*, has been hitherto only known in a fossil state, the entire group find nearer allies in the extinct faunæ of the chalk or of the earlier tertiaries than in that of the present period.

As I have already said, the mollusca procured during the three years' dredging are in the hands of Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys for identification and description. From the large number of new species, and from the complicated relations which many of the forms from deep water bear to species now widely separated from them in space, or belonging to past geological periods, the task will be a difficult one, and we cannot expect its completion for some time to come. In the meanwhile, Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys has published several preliminary sketches which are full of promise that his complete results will be of the highest interest.

Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys believes that the deep-water mollusca which were dredged throughout the whole of the area examined from the Færoe Islands to the coast of Spain, are almost all of northern origin. Most of the species which have been already described were previously known from the Scandinavian seas, and many of the undescribed species belong to northern genera. He points out that the molluscan fauna of the Arctic Sea is as yet almost unknown; but he reasons from the large collections made at Spitzbergen by Professor Torell, and from the fact that fragments of mollusca have been brought up in many deep-sea soundings within the Arctic circle, that the fauna is probably varied and rich. He instances soundings taken in 1868 by the Swedish