

tions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, founded upon the recommendations of a committee of the Royal Society, were followed so far as circumstances would permit. We always kept in view that to explore the conditions of the deep sea was the primary object of our mission, and throughout the voyage we took every possible opportunity of making a deep-sea observation. We dredged from time to time in shallow water in the most remote regions, and we have in this way acquired many undescribed animal forms; and collections of land animals and plants were likewise made on every available occasion; but I rather discouraged such work, which in our case could only be done imperfectly, if it seemed likely to divert our attention from our special object.

Between our departure from Sheerness on the 7th of December, 1872, and our arrival at Spithead on the 24th of May, 1876, we traversed a distance of 68,890 nautical miles, and at intervals, as nearly uniform as possible, we established 362 observing stations.

At each of these stations the following observations were made, so far as circumstances would permit. The position of the station having been ascertained—

1. The exact depth was determined.
2. A sample of the bottom averaging from 1 oz. to 1 lb. in weight was recovered by means of the sounding instrument, which was provided with a tube and disengaging weights.
3. A sample of the bottom-water was procured for physical and chemical examination.
4. The bottom temperature was determined by a registering thermometer.
5. At most stations a fair sample of the bottom fauna was procured by means of the dredge or trawl.
6. At most stations the fauna of the surface and of interme-