

forms brought back by the Expedition. It was obtained at six different Stations, and appears to abound over a wide geographical area, occurring at depths varying from 1035 to 2900 fathoms,—the greatest depth whence any living Brachiopod has been brought up. None of the specimens procured exceeded 7 lines in length by 9 in breadth; its shell is extremely thin and brittle, almost transparent, smooth and glassy. It bears much resemblance in shape to more than one Tertiary, Cretaceous, and Jurassic species.

“*Discina atlantica*, King, is another of the widely spread abyssal forms, and was brought up by the Challenger at six or seven different Stations. Its shell is small, very thin, and semi-transparent. The cirri proceeding from the edges of the mantle are of great comparative length, equalling the diameter of the shell.

“Only a small number of the species brought home by the Challenger Expedition are positively known to occur in the upper Tertiaries. Those that are both recent and fossil are *Terebratulina caput-serpentis*, *Terebratula vitrea*, var. *minor*, *Terebratella dorsata*, *Megerlia truncata*, *Platydia anomioïdes*, and *Argiæpe decollata*. None of the abyssal forms have yet been found in the fossil condition; but if we take into consideration the 120 known species of recent Brachiopoda, 26 of these occur both recent and fossil. The chief object of the Challenger Expedition being to dredge in open seas in various longitudes and latitudes, much time could not be devoted to searching coral reefs and shallow rocky bottoms, where the larger number of species are to be found, and where they often congregate in great number and variety. Thus, for example, about 30 species have been obtained from Japanese and Korean Seas; a large number also are to be found in New Zealand waters, near the Cape of Good Hope, &c. In deep seas with muddy bottoms it is rare to find more than one, two, or three species living at the same spot, and this was amply confirmed by the Challenger Expedition.”

An unfortunate accident occurred on board on the morning of the 25th. Owing to the rugged nature of the ground over which the dredge was dragging, the strain on the dredge rope increased on one occasion so suddenly, that before it could be relieved the hook of one of the spans, to which the leading blocks were secured, broke, and the block striking W. Stokes, a boy, fractured his leg, and otherwise injured him so severely that he died in the afternoon.

On the 26th March when barely 100 miles from land, the depth was found to be 3875 fathoms. Such a rapid increase in the depth not having been expected, only 3 cwt. of sinkers had been attached. After 3000 fathoms had run out, there was some uncertainty as to the time that should be occupied by the weights in descending, as hitherto the deepest cast had not much exceeded that depth. Twice, the intervals appearing longer than they should be, the line was checked; but the strain on it, as indicated by the stretching of the accumulators, showed in a most satisfactory manner that the bottom had not been reached. Finally, when the sinkers did strike the ground,