

esting observations were made concerning the development of some shallow water Holothurians, viz., *Cladodactyla crocea* (Lesson), from Stanley Harbour, and *Psolus ephippifer*, from Corinthian Harbour in Heard Island (see pp. 379–384). In the females of the former the young were closely packed and adhering to the dorsal pedicels, while in the latter the embryos were developed within a kind of marsupium, situated on the dorsal surface and formed by its calcareous plates. There can be little doubt that the eggs are impregnated either in the ovarium or immediately after their extrusion, and that the free larval stage is omitted.

“Though the remains of Echinodermata are found abundantly as fossils, our knowledge of the fossil Holothurians is very unsatisfactory. Only a few calcareous spicules, believed to belong to Holothurians, occur in the Mesozoic rocks; but it must be remembered that these deposits are very fragmentary and difficult to refer to any distinct genus or species. However, some anchors, wheels, and other deposits are found, which seem to prove that the Apoda are older than the Pedata; but, as above mentioned, our knowledge is too incomplete to decide the question. No fossil remains of the Elasipoda have been detected, but nevertheless the opinion that the order is very old seems justified, and from the fact that it has retained more peculiarities characteristic of the larvæ of the Holothurians than the Apoda and Pedata, it seems to follow that it does not bear any direct genetic relation to the present representatives of these two orders.

“Thus I have endeavoured to give in a few words an account of this peculiar group of Holothurians, which passes its existence in the great depths at the floor of the ocean. Those readers who wish to get a clearer view of the different forms and their organisation, are referred to the Report”¹

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Challenger remained moored in Simon's Bay from the 28th October till the 2nd December, when she proceeded to Table Bay. After a stay of ten days at Table Bay the ship returned to Simon's Bay till the 17th December. At Simon's Bay the ship was refitted, a deck house built for the convenience of the Naturalists, and the necessary stores taken on board for the Antarctic trip.

The Governor of Cape Colony, Sir Henry Barclay, and the inhabitants received the Expedition with great hospitality, and many receptions and entertainments were given in honour of the visit to Cape Town. Several excursions were arranged to enable the members of the Expedition to see the interior of the country, and to make collections. It was not, however, the practice to make any extensive collections at places like the Cape Colony, where the Botany and Zoology were well known.

¹ Zool. Chall. Exp., part xiii., 1881.