

PREFACE.

HAD the responsibility of the production of the Narrative of the Cruise rested with the same members of the Expedition from the commencement, a somewhat different method would probably have been followed in the preparation of this volume. The arrangement of the matter and the style have been largely determined by the circumstances arising out of the change of Captains during the Cruise, the unexpected death of Sir C. Wyville Thomson in 1882, and the necessity for publication before the completion of many of the special Reports.

It is hoped, however, that the volume will be found to contain a faithful record of the Work of the Expedition, and as complete an account of the scientific results as is possible in the present state of the investigations.

A considerable part of Professor Moseley's contribution to the Narrative is in the form of revised and modified extracts from his Journal, published in 1877.¹

With respect to the depths assigned to the Zoological specimens, it may be well to state that the Naturalists of the Expedition have simply recorded the greatest depth to which the dredge or trawl was believed to have descended at each Station. It will be evident that the instrument may have been occasionally dragged into slightly deeper or shallower water than was recorded by the sounding line, and what is of greater consequence, the trawl or dredge may have caught animals while sinking through the water or being hauled up again. In the great majority of cases there is little

¹ Notes by a Naturalist on the Challenger, London, 1877.