

## EDITORIAL NOTE.

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THIS Volume contains the fourth and concluding Part of the Botanical Series of Reports on the Scientific Results of the Expedition, and is a Memoir by Conte Abate Francesco Castracane degli Antelminelli on the Marine DIATOMACEÆ collected during the Expedition. The Report was originally written in the Italian language, and was translated into English under the direct supervision of Conte Castracane; it has, however, been found necessary to submit this translation to considerable modifications of form before sending it to press. In some respects it would have been desirable had the Author included in the Report lists of the species found in the deposits and in the surface waters of different regions of the ocean; such lists will, however, be given in the Report on Deep Sea Deposits.

It was at one time hoped that an additional Report would be included in this Volume upon PELAGIC ALGÆ other than the DIATOMACEÆ, such as Ocillatoria, Coccospheres, Rhabdospheres, and some other organisms which are regarded as Pelagic Algæ. The material brought home was, however, not extensive enough, nor in a sufficiently good state of preservation, to admit of the preparation of a satisfactory Report; indeed, it would not have been possible to add much to what has been said about these doubtful organisms in the Narrative of the Cruise, or to the remarks it will be necessary to make concerning them in the Report on the Deep Sea Deposits. An interesting account of these PELAGIC ALGÆ may be looked for from the first Naturalist, who has the time and opportunity to examine them in the living state on board ship, immediately after having been taken from the waters of the open ocean.

JOHN MURRAY.

CHALLENGER EXPEDITION OFFICE, 32 QUEEN STREET,  
EDINBURGH, *November 14, 1886.*