

both in this country and abroad, to consult their fragmentary records, and to lament the loss or the confusion of their collections. It was, therefore, from the first a matter of grave consideration with me by what machinery it might be possible to keep the collection together, and to prepare a report which should justify the expense of the voyage, and bring its results in the different departments included in our instructions in a definite form within the domain of acquired knowledge.

As the scheme of dredging at extreme depths was a novel one, and there was still great uncertainty both as to the practicability of the investigation, and the amount of the probable results if it proved successful, it seemed premature to make a definite arrangement before leaving England as to the final disposal of a problematic collection. We started, accordingly, with the obvious understanding that all collections made, as well as all official journals, and all other scientific work done by the salaried members of the scientific staff were Government property, to be dealt with finally as Government might direct; and further, that on the return of the expedition means should be provided for working out and publishing the scientific results of the voyage under my direction.

In the first instance, the instructions of the Admiralty, that no publication of any portion of the results should take place during the voyage, except through my own official reports, was very definite. I thought it my duty, however, to represent strongly to their Lordships, that some of the gentlemen associated with me in the undertaking might reasonably expect to have the advantage of publishing at once any new results of value, which they might obtain in their several departments, in their own names; and it was finally conceded that it should be left to my discretion to allow the publication of what appeared to me suitable, on my own responsibility, in certain transactions and journals. Under this special sanction several important Memoirs were published by Mr Moseley and Dr v. Willemoes-Suhm in the Transactions of the Royal and Linnæan Societies.

So early as the 13th November 1874, Captain Evans, C.B., F.R.S., the Hydrographer of the Admiralty, wrote to me asking my views as to the mode of working up and publishing the scientific results of the expedition; and the temporary and ultimate disposition of the collection, of which a considerable bulk had already been sent home. The temporary arrangement was at that time the most pressing, and I quote from my reply, dated January 8, 1875:—

When I undertook my share in this expedition, it was with the understanding that I did so specially with the view of superintending the working out of the results in the department under my direction. This I could not undertake to do if the collections passed into other hands, or were dispersed without my direct supervision. The notes and references are very complicated, prepared by different hands; and the collection would lose half its value if its arrangement and description was undertaken by any one who had not a full knowledge of its antecedents. I believe that the great reason of the comparative failure of the natural science results of former expeditions has been, that no proper or liberal arrangement has been made for the publication of the