

necessary material. I accordingly applied to the Admiralty to give instructions to the medical officer in charge at Ascension, to procure an additional supply of specimens; and I have to thank their Lordships for the readiness with which they acceded to this request. Dr Maclean, who had been one of the medical officers on board the Challenger, happened to be stationed at Ascension at the time, and he brought an amount of knowledge and goodwill to the task which soon supplied our wants. I am glad that one of Dr Parker's important Memoirs should form part of our Report.

In regard to the Challenger Expedition, shore-fishes were much in the position of land birds or mammals, or other groups which lay beyond our special province. At most of the ports where we remained for any length of time there were numerous European residents, and opportunities were ample for supplying museums at home at a small cost. It was, therefore, only when we stopped for a time at remote places, such as St Paul's Rocks or the Admiralty Islands, that we took special pains to bring together as many fishes as possible. The collection of shore-fishes is accordingly comparatively small. Owing to the successful use of the deep-sea trawl during the voyage, and the attention which has been paid to the matter by Mr Murray, the pelagic and abyssal fishes form one of the most interesting parts of our collection. This series will also be described by Dr Günther.

The Memoirs which appear in this temporary volume are naturally among the shorter and more easily prepared. Some of the more important monographs are in type, and almost ready for publication; while a few others, some of which will each occupy two entire volumes, cannot be finished for some time.

C. WY. T.