

THE LATE SIR C. WYVILLE THOMSON.

THE announcement of the death of Sir Charles Wyville Thomson, since the last volume of these Reports was issued from the press, has been received with general regret.

Sir Wyville's name will always be associated with deep-sea investigations, and in a very special manner with those conducted by H.M.S. Challenger. He was one of the chief promoters of the Expedition, and was on board the ship during the whole of her long cruise as Director of the Civilian Scientific Staff. Until the beginning of the present year he had the direction of all the work connected with the publication of these Official Reports.

A subsequent volume will contain a history of the Challenger Expedition, and of those English Expeditions which immediately preceded it, as well as a detailed account of Sir Wyville's scientific work in connection therewith. The present notice is limited to an enumeration of some of the chief events of his life.

Charles Wyville Thomson, the son of Mr. Andrew Thomson, surgeon in the Honourable East India Company's service, was born at Bonsyde, near Linlithgow, on 5th March 1830.

He received his early education at Merchiston Castle School, and afterwards attended the classes in the University of Edinburgh as a student of medicine.

In 1850 he became Lecturer on Botany in King's College, Aberdeen; and in 1851 he was appointed to the Chair of Botany in Marischal College.