

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the OPHIUROIDEA dredged by H.M.S. Challenger during the years
1873-76. By THEODORE LYMAN.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS monograph attempts to describe and classify the OPHIURIDÆ, or Brittle-Stars, and the ASTROPHYTIDÆ, or Branching-Stars, collected during the cruise of the Challenger. Seeing that the twenty new genera and the one hundred and sixty-seven new species formed a large proportion of those known, and considering that there were also collected not a few of the old species, I deemed it wise to add the names of all others previously described, and to arrange them under their genera with proper references and explanations. Thus, by the addition of a few pages, the work has become a handbook of the two families treated of.

First comes the descriptive portion, wherein are given descriptions of the new Ophiuridæ arranged in their three groups, and of the Astrophytidæ, both branching and simple-armed. There are added, from time to time, such anatomical observations as I have been able to make. Then follow tables of distribution, geographical, bathymetrical, and thermal, with brief reflections on their indications. At the end is a note on fossil species and their relations to those living.

The anatomical parts spoken of are explained by frequent references to the plates. Should the reader need more detailed information, he will find it in my Ophiuridæ and Astrophytidæ Old and New,¹ or in Dr Ludwig's Morphologische Studien an Echinodermen.² In order to understand a description, it is necessary to bear in mind that the animal is supposed to have the mouth below; then vertically, towards the roof of the

¹ Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, vol. iii., part 10, pp. 254 and 260.

² Zeitschr. f. Wissenschaftl. Zoologie, vol. xxxi., 1878, p. 241; vol. xxxiv., 1880, pp. 1 and 57.