

all fellow-workers, whom, in the course of the preparation of his Report, he may have consulted. This is also a fitting place to record the assistance I have derived from the late Dr. Gwyn Jeffrey's writings on the deep-sea fauna of the North Atlantic, and to acknowledge his courtesy in kindly giving his opinion upon certain difficult and doubtful questions. To my friend W. H. Dall, of the Smithsonian Institution, I am under similar obligations.

The name Pelecypoda given to this section of Mollusca by Goldfuss¹ ought, I think, to be used in preference to that of Lamellibranchiata. Not only has it priority, but, as pointed out by Stoliczka, it is also more in uniformity with the nomenclature of the other classes of Mollusca, the Cephalopoda, Pteropoda, Gasteropoda, &c., and points to the modification of one of the most important organs—that of locomotion—of the animals.

This class was designated Lamellibranches by Blainville² as early as the year 1816, four years before the publication of Pelecypoda by Goldfuss, but was not characterised, and the term Lamellibranchiata, accompanied by a description of the class, did not appear until the year 1824, in Blainville's article on Mollusca in the *Dict. d. Sci. Nat.*, vol. xxxii. p. 306. It will therefore be seen that Pelecypoda, although published somewhat later than Lamellibranches, was in reality the first to be characterised. I should also here notice that Blainville imposed the name Tétrabranche upon the bivalves³ two years before the invention of Lamellibranches, but, in that instance also, unaccompanied by any description. The class-names "Acéphala" of Cuvier and "Conchifera" of Lamarck were published a year or two prior to the appearance of Goldfuss's work, but, as they include groups which are regarded in modern science as distinct classes, their adoption is not advisable, seeing that Pelecypoda applies only to true bivalve Molluscs as now understood. The name Lamellibranchiata is used in the present Report as it appears in the several works published by Sir Wyville Thomson, Professor H. N. Moseley, and others in connection with the voyage of the Challenger, also in the Narrative of the Cruise, and because it had already been written on some of the plates before this subject of nomenclature had been studied.

In describing the new species I have deemed it advisable to give Latin diagnoses, as practical experience has proved to me the advantage of such descriptions, and the custom is adopted by continental writers almost without exception. Through long use the Latin terminology has acquired a settled signification, and is generally understood, which is not the case in respect of other languages, and the time has not yet arrived that any one particular modern language is universally so thoroughly known that its adoption as the language of science can be determined upon.

¹ *Handbuch der Zoologie*, 1820, vol. i. p. 599.

² *Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris*, 1816, p. 122; and *Journ. de Physique*, 1816, vol. lxxxiii. p. 255.

³ *Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris*, 1814, p. 179.