

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE COLLECTION.

I have already given a brief notice of the collection, which will be found incorporated in the Narrative of the Voyage,¹ and the views there expressed require little modification.

The collection, as a whole, is in some respects disappointing. Considering the character of the Expedition, the appliances with which it was furnished, the able staff of scientific men on board, and the number of Stations dredged, it certainly does seem surprising that only about five hundred species² should have been obtained. This, however, may not be three-fourths of the number of forms which actually passed into the dredge or trawl, for doubtless a certain proportion, perhaps a large percentage, of the secured material, and possibly some of the most valuable, must have found its way through the meshes of the network during the process of hauling in, especially from very great depths. Another disappointing feature of the collection is that the species are represented in the majority of instances by very few specimens, there being of many of them but single or a few odd valves, some of which are in a bad state of preservation. The greater part of the collection consists of species from comparatively shallow water, Torres Strait, the Arafura Sea, Port Jackson, Bass Strait, Fiji, Kerguelen and Marion Islands, supplying a large proportion.

As might be expected, some of the forms are of particular interest when great depths have been reached, but it is a remarkable fact that only one distinctly new generic type was discovered.³

The greatest depth at which Lamellibranchs were obtained was 2900 fathoms (Station 244, in Mid North Pacific). Of the two species from this enormous depth one is a small fragile shell which I have named *Callocardia pacifica*; I should here observe, and it is a most interesting fact, that a second species (*Callocardia atlantica*) was dredged in 1000 fathoms off the Azores, which is all but identical with that from the Pacific. A third species of this genus (*Callocardia adamsii*) was also obtained in very deep water in the Atlantic to the south-west of Sierra Leone. The second species, from Station 244, belongs to *Abra*, which I regard as a subgenus of *Semele*.

The other Stations, ranging from depths of 1000 to 2650 fathoms, at which Lamellibranchs were obtained are Nos. 45, 47, 56, 70, 71, 73, 78, 85, 98, 104, 106, 113, 133, 135E, 137, 146, 157, 158, 184, 198, 205, 216, 218, 244, 246, 271, 281, 300, 302, 317, 323, 325, and 348. I have quoted these numbers so that reference can be made to the

¹ Narr. Chall. Exp., vol. i. pp. 624-626, 1885.

² This does not include a small number of species represented only by odd valves, which are beyond identification owing to their young state or bad condition.

³ A still more remarkable absence of generic novelties occurred in the case of the Brachiopoda, not a single new form having been described by Mr. Davidson.