

any peculiar features, nor do they particularly abound. The very remarkable *Rhopalodina* has been hitherto only dredged at a single locality. In different regions different forms predominate; thus the Aspidochirotæ abound in species at the West Indies and also in other tropical or subtropical zones. The Mediterranean has a Holothurian fauna very different from that of the West Indies, but reminding one in several respects of that of the British and Scandinavian coasts.

*The Indian and Pacific Oceans.*—Considering the fact that while about forty-two species and varieties are known from the Arctic Ocean, thirty-two from the Antarctic, one hundred and thirty-five from the Atlantic and Mediterranean, but no less than about three hundred and five from the Indian and Pacific Oceans, there seems to be sufficient reason for the opinion that the Holothurids attain their maximum development in these latter seas. Here, as well as in the Atlantic Ocean, the tropical and temperate regions are the richest, while a diminution in the abundance of Holothurian life takes place towards the arctic and antarctic regions. The fact that among eighty-nine species hitherto known from the Indian Ocean, forty-nine are also found in the Pacific, evidently proves the great similarity between the two oceans, a similarity which will certainly be more striking when a greater part of the Indian Ocean is explored.

The genus *Synapta* is represented by no less than thirty-four species, of which some attain an enormous length; the large *Synapta beselii*, *Synapta glabra*, *Synapta grisea*, &c., are not only by their size, but even by their colour and external appearance, in a high degree characteristic of the oceans in question. The genera *Actinocucumis*, *Pseudocucumis*, *Amphicyclus* and *Eucyclus* are known only from these oceans, and show that those Dendrochirotæ which are marked by possessing more than ten tentacles, have been subjected to greater variations here than in the Atlantic Ocean. The singular genus *Colochirus* is very characteristic of the Holothurians of these oceans, and gives to them a peculiar stamp, for among eighteen known species, seventeen belong to the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Among the Aspidochirotæ, *Mülleria*, *Stichopus* and *Holothuria* abound in all places, and are represented by a very much greater number of forms than is the case in the Atlantic Ocean.