

the ventral aspect of the tail. Into it the urethra, vagina, and rectum opened. A pair of nipples projected from the abdominal wall about 16 inches in front of the vent; when pressed on, each nipple receded into a depression in the integument.

The hair of the face and back was dark grey, dashed with a brown or yellow tint; down the sides and belly it was lighter and more yellow, with a dash of reddish-brown, but the brownish tint was to some extent due to discoloration from the oil which had escaped out of the blubber amongst the hair. In Dr. Gray's figure of a female Elephant Seal in the Voyage of the "Erebus" and "Terror" (pl. ix.), the face and the sides and belly are coloured a lighter yellow than was seen in my specimen. Mr. Eaton¹ does not refer to the yellow colour of the hair, which he says in some specimens is uniformly reddish-brown, in others is pale, blotched and spotted with darker grey.

SKELETON.—There does not appear to be on record any detailed description of the skeleton of the Elephant Seal, or of the characters which differentiate the bones of the male and female. F. Cuvier has given² a short description of the skull. Some measurements both of the skull and other bones have been recorded by Mr. J. A. Allen in his monograph on the North American Pinnipeds.³ Professor Flower has described some characters of the cranium of a splendid specimen of a large male from the Falkland Islands,⁴ and in the Catalogue of the Skeletons of the Mammals in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England⁵ he has given the length of the articulated skeleton as 4500 mm. from tip of nose to end of tail, and 4890 mm. to end of posterior digits. Dr. St. George Mivart has also published⁶ short notes on the cranium. A more detailed description is still, however, a desideratum. It is especially necessary to make a comparison of the male and female crania, as they differ from each other so much in size, and to some extent in relative proportions, that a naturalist, in ignorance of the animals from which they had been obtained, might easily regard them as belonging to different species. As the collection contained crania in different stages of growth, some observations on the influence of age on the skull have also been made.

Skull.—The skulls which have been examined whilst writing the following description consisted not only of those collected by the Challenger, both males and females (p. 3), but of a fine male, which had been shot on Heard Island, presented to me for the Anatomical Museum of the University of Edinburgh by my former pupil and assistant, Professor J. Halliday Scott of Dunedin, N.Z.

In the following table I have stated the measurements of the three male skulls, and of the large female (*f*) shot at Betsy Cove; and to allow their relative size to be compared with that of other recorded specimens, I have, in addition to a number of new measurements, also adopted those employed by Professor Flower in his account of the skull of

¹ *Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond.*, vol. xxiii. p. 502, 1875, and *Phil. Trans.*, vol. clxviii. p. 96, 1879.

² *Mém. du Muséum*, t. xi. p. 200, pl. 14, 1824.

³ U.S. Geol. Survey, Washington, 1880.

⁴ *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, January 4, 1881.

⁵ London, 1884.

⁶ *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, May 19, 1885.