

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the SIPHONOPHORÆ collected by H.M.S. Challenger during the Years 1873-76. By ERNST HÆCKEL, M.D., Ph.D., Hon. F.R.S.E., Professor of Zoology in the University of Jena.

P R E F A C E.

THE Siphonophoræ collected by the Challenger during her cruise round the world were handed to me for investigation in 1879. The examination of this material, among which were to be found many new and remarkable types (especially abyssal forms), led me to recommence my study of the organisation and development of the whole class, which had been interrupted for more than ten years. During a residence of three months at Puerto del Arrecife, the harbour of Lanzerote in the Canary Islands, December 1866, January and February 1867, I had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with nearly all the typical forms of this most attractive group of animals. The facts which I then discovered regarding the curious, but till then little known, ontogenesis of these Acalephs, were embodied in a prize essay published by the Gesellschaft für Kunst und Wissenschaft in Utrecht.¹ I then intended to follow up this embryological memoir with a more extensive comparative anatomical one, or if possible a Monograph, in which also the systematic arrangement of the Siphonophoræ should be subjected to a thorough revision, and the very intricate literature of this class critically elucidated. The completion of this scheme was, however, deferred owing to various external hindrances, and the rich material collected at Lanzerote remained for the most part unpublished.

¹ Zur Entwicklungsgeschichte der Siphonophoren, Utrecht, 1869, 14 plates.