

board, were conducted with increasing certainty and success. From want of time, from stress of weather, and other causes, it was very frequently impossible to carry out all the desirable observations at the different positions, hence there is a very great disproportion in the information recorded at the various stations.

METHOD OF WORK  
ON BOARD SHIP.

When the Challenger left England no definite arrangements had been made as to how the biological work was to be distributed among the naturalists, or what was to be done with the collections brought together during the Expedition. In the course of a few months the specimens from land expeditions, from shallow-water and deep-sea dredgings and trawlings, had accumulated to such an extent in the work-rooms as to be exceedingly inconvenient; many of them had commenced to suffer, and a few were actually destroyed, from insufficient attention in their preservation. It became absolutely necessary to apportion the work, and to agree on a plan with reference to the collections as a whole. Some of the naturalists held that their first duty was to examine the specimens procured, to figure and describe the most interesting, and to reduce the preserved collections to the smallest possible bulk. Others were of opinion that the largest possible collections should be made, and that their chief duty should be to note the condition of the specimens in the living state or at the time of capture, it being urged that the successful description of the collections could only take place after the return of the Expedition. It soon became evident that large collections, even of one group, could not be retained in the work-rooms for comparison and description. At short intervals it was necessary to clear away the specimens to make room for those captured at succeeding stations, and when once placed in the hold of the ship the specimens were not again easily available for examination. The labour of preserving, labelling, packing, and storing the collections was very great, and members of the Expedition felt that these collections should not be distributed to specialists at home before the return of the Expedition, for in that case many of their observations on board ship could not be subjected to the test of subsequent examination. Perfect agreement probably never existed among the naturalists as to the best manner of dealing with the zoological collections, but arrangements were ultimately made which enabled the investigations to be carried on with convenience and success.

THE CHALLENGER  
COLLECTIONS.

It was understood that the naturalists should not send home private collections. It was arranged, with the consent of the Admiralty, that all the collections should be sent to Professor William Turner of the University of Edinburgh, who, at the request of his colleague, Professor Wyville Thomson, undertook to examine their condition on arrival, and to take charge of them till the return of the Expedition. These collections, as well as those brought home in the ship, were stored in the University of Edinburgh for many years free of cost to the Government.

When the contents of a dredge or trawl were being examined after a successful haul, Professor Thomson usually took charge of the Echinoderms, Dr von Willemoes-Suhm of the Crustaceans and Annelids, Mr Moseley of the Corals, Molluscs, and Sponges, and Mr