

completion of the official publications in the same style as that in which they had hitherto appeared. This sum has been the only payment from Government funds in connection with the Challenger Expedition during the past six years:—the price of each volume of the Report has been fixed so as to repay the expenditure of Her Majesty's Stationery Office for printing, provided that the whole edition of seven hundred and fifty copies be sold.

The present volumes complete the official publications on the Scientific Results of the Expedition. They contain a historical review of the progress of Oceanography, a summary account of the observations and results obtained at each of the Challenger observing stations at sea, lists illustrating the geographical and bathymetrical distribution of marine organisms, and an index of the genera and species described or recorded in the Report.

Two important special memoirs which, owing to unavoidable delay in preparation, could not be published in the Zoological and Physical series are appended to these summary volumes. The first is a Memoir by the Right Hon. T. H. Huxley and Dr. Paul Pelseneer on the rare Cephalopod *Spirula*, one specimen of which was procured by the Expedition. The second is a Memoir by Dr. Alexander Buchan on Oceanic Circulation, which is accompanied by an extremely interesting series of maps showing the specific gravity and temperature of the ocean at different depths.

The several special Memoirs on Zoological, Physical, and Chemical subjects which make up the larger part of the Challenger Report were published separately, and in volumes, as soon as completed, with very little attempt at any systematic arrangement. It will be seen on reference to the following list that the whole Report is now bound up in a series of Fifty large Royal Quarto Volumes containing about twenty-nine thousand five hundred pages, illustrated by over three thousand lithographic plates, copper plates, charts, maps, and diagrams, together with a very large number of woodcuts. It was originally the intention, on the completion of the Report, to print new title-pages, with instructions for rebinding the several series of Memoirs in systematic order. This intention has been abandoned after consultation with many scientific authorities. Fourteen years have elapsed since the first volumes were published, and in scientific literature there are so many