

## PREFACE

AT the International Congress for the Exploration of the Sea held on the invitation of the Swedish Government in Stockholm in 1899, Sir John Murray was the chief British delegate, and acted as president of the physical and chemical section, which drew up a programme of work for the proposed investigations in the North Sea and in the Norwegian Sea. Although his official connection with these marine researches came to an end with the close of the first Congress, it is well known that he has followed with great interest all the proceedings of the International Council during the past ten or twelve years.

In the year 1909 he chanced to visit Copenhagen at a time when one of the annual meetings of the Council was going on, and was invited by the members to take part in some of their deliberations. In the course of the conversations which followed he expressed the opinion that systematic observations in the Atlantic might throw much light on some of the problems then being studied in our more northern seas.

Subsequently Sir John Murray wrote to me that if the Norwegian Government would lend the "Michael Sars" and her scientific staff for a four months' summer cruise in the North Atlantic, he would pay all the other expenses.

When this proposal was laid before the Norwegian Government it was favourably received, and within a few weeks a satisfactory financial agreement was drawn up and adopted. My scientific colleagues, Professor Gran, Dr. Helland-Hansen, Mr. E. Koefoed, and Captain Thor Iversen, who had long been