

EDITORIAL NOTES.

AFTER the lamented death of Professor A. H. Garrod, Mr. W. A. Forbes was induced to undertake the anatomical examination of the Petrels collected during the cruise of the Challenger. The result of Mr. Forbes' labours is given in the first Report in this volume. This contribution will be found a most valuable addition to the literature on this remarkable order of Pelagic birds.

The name which has been given to Professor Haeckel's beautifully illustrated Memoir may perhaps be open to question. Some of the species described are certainly from the surface, and it is even doubtful if all the others are to be regarded as true deep-sea animals.

Professor Haeckel discusses this question in his Preface, and I quite agree with him in regarding some of the forms as constant inhabitants of the deep sea.

In Dr. Théel's Memoir we have the description of a new order of characteristic deep-sea animals of very great interest.

The majority of the Elaspoda live in depths greater than 1000 fathoms, and up to the present time only one species has been found in depths less than 100 fathoms. This species was dredged in the Arctic Ocean, during the Swedish Expedition to the Yenisei in the year 1875, and was described by Dr. Théel shortly after the return of the Challenger to England. This circumstance led to the whole of the Holothurioidea of the Challenger Expedition being placed in Dr. Théel's hands for description. Dr. Théel promises the second part of his very valuable contribution in the course of a few months.

Owing to the continued ill-health of the late Sir C. Wyville Thomson, I was, in January of the present year, instructed to undertake the Editorial duties connected with the Official Publications on the Scientific Results of the Challenger Expedition; and, at the same time was requested to prepare,