

I have collected whatever information the specimens in my hands and the literature of the subject afforded in the subjoined lists.

As regards their distribution the Cephalopoda seem to be divisible into three principal groups (1) the Pelagic, (2) the Littoral, (3) the Abyssal, and the different genera belong with considerable constancy to one group or the other, that is to say, all the species of any one genus belong to the same group; for example—*Octopus*, *Sepia*, and *Loligo* are typical littoral genera, while *Cranchia*, *Ommastrephes*, and *Onychoteuthis* are with equal distinctness pelagic in their habits.

It has been stated generally, and the examination of the Challenger collection has certainly borne out the proposition, that while pelagic animals belong to but few types, each of which has a comparatively wide area of distribution, littoral forms belong to many species, each of which is confined within narrow limits. With reference to deep-sea forms our knowledge is only in its infancy, but they seem to be even more widely distributed than the pelagic ones; and conditions of life in the depths of the sea (especially temperature) are so uniform that this is precisely what we should expect, and what has been found to obtain in other groups.

The first three lists give what I may call the "Oceanic" species, using this word to include both the pelagic and abyssal forms, for it is convenient to consider them together as regards their horizontal distribution: their vertical distribution will be treated of in the next section of this Report. These forms have been disposed in three groups corresponding to the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian (including the Southern) Oceans rather for convenience than from a belief that such a division is natural; although, as will appear subsequently (p. 222), the great majority are confined to one area. The chief factor limiting their dispersion being probably temperature, though doubtless other conditions, such as the presence of Gulf weed, also have their influence.

The "Littoral" species, that is those found in moderately shallow water not far from the coasts, whether they be active swimmers like *Loligo*, or more sedentary like *Octopus*, are much more restricted in their range than the oceanic. For the purpose of representing their distribution, the coasts of the world have been divided into seventeen regions, which are very different in extent and in the number of species that have been recorded from them; as regards the former of these points it may be remarked that no sharp boundaries can be drawn between them at all; for, although for statistical purposes it may be necessary to adopt lines of demarcation, these are not recognised by nature, and furthermore a fuller knowledge of the faunas of the various regions would almost certainly show that some of the districts here proposed should be subdivided and others united.

The geographical regions here adopted agree very closely with those proposed by Dr. Paul Fischer in his recent Manual, based upon a study of the whole of the Mollusca. In a few cases I have subdivided his districts, in more he has subdivided