

These, and other causes for delay which I need not mention, have not, however, been altogether disadvantageous; for various small and more or less local collections of Comatulæ have come into my hands during the past five years, and the experience gained by their examination has been of great value in causing me to modify some of my earlier judgments respecting specific characters.

The seventy plates accompanying this Report have been drawn by the following artists—Messrs. Berjeau and Highley, Parker and Coward, George West and Sons, and Mr. W. S. Evans; and I desire to express my thanks to all these gentlemen for the care with which they have always endeavoured to carry out my wishes. I am also greatly indebted to my friend Professor F. J. Bell, F.Z.S., of the British Museum, for the ready way in which he has always given me the utmost facilities for examining the collection of Comatulæ under his care.

I have likewise to acknowledge the courteous kindness of Professor S. Lovén at Stockholm, Professor A. Schneider of Breslau, Dr. E. von Marenzeller of Vienna, Dr. Otto Hamann of Göttingen, and Dr. F. Nansen of Bergen, who have been good enough to send selected Comatulæ to me for examination from the collections in their charge. It is proper also that I should record my indebtedness to the authorities of the numerous Continental Museums which I visited in 1880, for the uniform courtesy with which their collections were placed at my disposal.

It only remains, in conclusion, for me to express my sincere thanks to Mr. John Murray for the kind patience with which he has borne the numerous delays in the completion of this Report, to which I have referred above; and also to Mr. W. E. Hoyle, M.A., of the Challenger office, for the careful manner in which he has supervised its passage through the press.