

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the PELAGIC FISHES collected by H.M.S. Challenger during the Years 1873-76. By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.S., Keeper of the Department of Zoology in the British Museum.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Third Report on the Fishes collected during the voyage of H.M.S. Challenger comprises an account of the specimens which were obtained in the open ocean by means of the surface-net or otherwise. It is devoted, therefore, chiefly to *Pelagic* Fishes.

The specimens were as numerous as those of either the shore or deep-sea series, but by far the greater majority were of small or even minute size. Many of them would have been lost but for the care taken at the time of their capture, by separating them in tubes or mounting them there and then for microscopic examination. There were comparatively few which, during or after capture, had so much suffered as to be unfit for examination or description; but I am compelled to omit in this Report mention of a considerable number of specimens which were obtained at such an early stage of their development, and which exhibit such small progress towards specialisation, that I am unable to arrive at any conclusion as to the family or even order of fishes to which they belong. On the other hand, I have admitted all such young forms, which, even if their origin be uncertain at present, may be readily recognised by future observers.

The pelagic fish-fauna consists, first, of the truly pelagic fishes, that is, fishes which inhabit the surface of the ocean, approaching the shore only accidentally or while in pursuit of their prey; the majority are bred in the open sea and pass through the various