

between the chambers ('Introd. Foram.' p. 182); and we may add that *Globigerina* furnishes the intermediate and connecting link between the areolated structure of *Dactylopora* and the finely prismatic tissue of the Nummuline shell.

In some cases, especially in the thin rod-like form of *Ovulites*, external pores cease to exist, the apertures being encroached on and closed by delicate shell-matter; and only minute irregular wrinkles remain on the surface. In a short, thick, biclavate (dumb-bell) Ovulite the relatively large chamberlets are closed with translucent films. Some subcylindrical *Ovulites* approach very closely in character to the smallest pipe-like *Dactyloporæ* (*Gyroporella*?, Gumbel) with vesicular wall-chambers.

With their large internal mass of sarcode and its numerous simple or complex lateral processes, the allied groups of *Acicularia*, *Ovulites*, and *Dactylopora* (*Haploporella*, *Dactyporella*, &c., Gumbel*) may be regarded as opaque calcareous frameworks in sarcode, just as the Polycystines have a siliceous skeleton in their sarcodic mass. The Dactyloporidæ are thus clearly distinguishable from the Miliolidæ and other *porcellaneous* Foraminifera, as indicated by one of us in the 'Monthly Microscop. Journ.' for February 1876, pp. 65, 89.

May 25, 1877.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Zoology of the 'Challenger' Expedition.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

As, in a letter upon this subject in the number of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for May last, Dr. Martin Duncan, writing as President of the Geological Society, has stated that he speaks "at the instance of a very considerable number of Members of learned Societies," we the undersigned wish to state that we do not agree in the strictures passed by Dr. Duncan upon the manner in which Sir C. Wyville Thomson has distributed the specimens collected by the 'Challenger' Expedition for description.

So far as we have had an opportunity of judging, we are perfectly satisfied that Sir C. Wyville Thomson, in the arrangements which he has made as regards these collections, has acted consistently with the best interests of science.

It was, in our opinion, Sir C. Wyville Thomson's duty to secure the aid of the most competent naturalists without regard to their nationality; and, even if it were proper that national jealousies should be imported into science, Sir C. Wyville Thomson can hardly

* Abhandl. k. bayer. Akad. Wiss. 1872.

be reproached on this score, when it is considered that two thirds at least of the naturalists whose aid he has obtained are Englishmen.

GEO. J. ALLMAN.	F. DUCANE GODMAN.
GEO. BUSK.	JOS. D. HOOKER.
WILLIAM B. CARPENTER.	T. H. HUXLEY.
CHARLES DARWIN.	ST. GEORGE MIVART.
FRANCIS DAY.	A. M. NORMAN.
H. E. DRESSER.	OSBERT SALVIN.
W. H. FLOWER.	P. L. SCLATER.
A. H. GARROD.	TWEEDDALE.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—As I have read, in a late number of ‘Nature,’ that a most interestingly signed declaration of approval of Sir C. W. Thomson’s administration will be sent to you for publication, I venture to express my sincere regret that I should be opposed to the opinions it contains. I believe that the best interests of science are served by fostering, and not by depreciating and discouraging, national talent; and I imagine catholicity in science, in the sense in which it is supposed to be realized by Sir C. Wyville Thomson’s action in the matter, to be a mischievous delusion. I would observe that as the groups collected by H.M.S. ‘Challenger’ have very different values in respect of the higher physical and biological questions which it was the primary object of the expedition to investigate, the numerical comparisons urged in Sir Wyville Thomson’s favour by the editorial “We” of ‘Nature’ are of no force.

Moreover, as in the great Austrian, German, French, and Scandinavian expeditions the results were almost without exception worked up at home, the Americans and Sir C. Wyville Thomson had better follow the same common-sense plan.

Irreconcilable as I am to Sir C. Wyville Thomson’s administration, I wish to express my sorrow if I have written any words which may be personally offensive to him.

Yours &c.,

June 22, 1877.

P. MARTIN DUNCAN.

The Locomotor System of Medusæ.

In the seventeenth volume of the present series of this journal (p. 246) we printed, from the ‘Proceedings of the Royal Society,’ the report of a paper by Mr. Romanes on the above subject. In publishing his memoir in the ‘Philosophical Transactions,’ Mr. Romanes appended to it a postscript referring to an anticipation of his results published by Prof. Eimer of Tübingen. The latter gentleman writes to us to complain that no notice of the contents of this postscript appears in our pages; but this, of course, was impossible, our publication being antecedent to Mr. Romanes’s acquaintance with Dr. Eimer’s memoir, which, he informs us, appeared in the ‘Sitzungsberichte der phys.-med. Gesellschaft zu Würzburg,’ in December 1873.