

well known to require repetition. But teachers should not forget that before they can make use of this means towards the much to be desired end, they must be trained in these respects themselves. To those who live within reach of the sea-shore, the group we are considering is a particularly good one for self-training. Those who may take up the study can have the additional stimulus of knowing that they may at any time add to science a substantial contribution. Problems are waiting everywhere for solution, and many of them are within the reach of any patient and accurate observer. Almost nothing is known of the habits of even our most common Echinoderms, not enough to give us any clear idea as to what features of their environment their very peculiar structure is adapted. We cannot doubt that the ten rays of *Sylasier*, or the five of *Cribrella*, or the spine-clusters of *Grossaster*, or the marginal web of *Pteraster*, are as exquisitely adapted to some conditions of those animals' lives as is the structure of a flower to cross-fertilization by Insects.

No one of the Echinoderms of our coast has any special economic value. Doubtless this fact explains why they have been so little noticed by those early writers who treated of the natural history of the Province. Early works which have chapters on the Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Fishes, quite ignore this group, though mentioning the edible Mollusca and Crustacea. The earliest reference to the Echinoderms of this region is found in "Les Voyages du Sieur de Champlain," written by Champlain himself and published at Paris in 1613. He mentions the occurrence of Sea-urchins in 1604 on Saint Croix (now Dochet or Neutral) Island; "Autour de notre habitation il y a de basse mer quantité de coquillages, comme coques, moules, ourcins & bregaux qui faisoient grand bien a chacun." Lescarbot and Denys seem to make no mention of the group, though the latter wrote a book on the natural history of this part of Canada. No work seems to contain any reference to them up to Cooney's "History of Northern New Brunswick and Gaspé," in 1832, which mentions among the "shell-fish" of the Province, the Starfish and Sea-urchin. Rev. C. Atkinson, in 1844, mentions