

lastly, a series of observations on the sea fisheries of this Province, and on other practical subjects. Although doubtless very imperfect, it is yet hoped that on the whole this report will reflect no discredit either upon the Society which I have the honour to represent, or on the Minister under whose auspices these investigations were conducted.

In order to shew that during the past session important additions have been made to our knowledge of the marine zoology of this Province, the following details may not be out of place.

FORAMINIFERA.—These microscopic organisms have been partially studied. The novelties detected are not very numerous so far. About ten new species or varietal forms can now be added to the latest list published.

POLYCYSTINA.—The few species collected in 1872 are precisely the same as those dredged in 1871.

SPONGES.—There are about ten species new to our fauna in the series collected last year. These are unusually curious and interesting. An attempt has been made to work up the whole group, and portions of many have been boiled in nitric acid, and the spicules carefully examined. The subject is one of great difficulty, however, and the trouble may be referred partly to the want of a series of accurately named British species for comparison, and partly to the fact that most of the sponges of the lower St. Lawrence are in all probability new to science. The appearance of Dr. Wyville Thompson's new book, 'The Depths of the Sea,' has thrown some light on several of these sponges. It is clear that some of the genera and species described in this volume are identical with specimens dredged in deep water in the St. Lawrence last year.

HYDROZOA.—These simple corallines have been carefully examined and studied. Twenty-three species have been recognised in last year's collection, and it is estimated that about ten more have yet to be identified.

ACTINOZOA.—The eight or ten additional species in this group have been studied by Prof. Verrill and myself. The three kinds of *Alcyonium* collected are not yet determined with any great degree of certainty; one is apparently undescribed, as is also a sea anemone of the limited genus *Actinopsis*.