

the distant waters of the Mediterranean Sea or in the tropical zones of the Atlantic and Pacific. None are recorded in British or Norse seas, or in the Atlantic waters of Europe. A precisely similar find was that of two species of *Oncaea*, which Dr. Sars to his uncontrollable astonishment found to be identical with species quite recently captured by Dr. Giesbrecht in the Bay of Naples, and described in one of his last papers. A beautiful Copepod so perfectly colourless and translucent as to be almost invisible when swimming in the water, Dr. Sars recognized as a *Mormonilla*—a highly remarkable genus established by Dr. Giesbrecht, and of which only two species are known. Both species, strange to say, are strictly confined to tropical Pacific waters, south indeed of the equator. Yet here we find in the remote polar seas, over twelve thousand miles away, Arctic specimens which can hardly be distinguished from the Tropical species. Dr. Sars would have conferred upon the Arctic form the name bestowed by Dr. Giesbrecht on the tropical form, "were it not" he says "that the great distance between the occurrences seems to forbid such an identification." Hardly less remarkable and of extreme interest not to zoologists alone, but to geologists and physiographers, is the fact that two polar species of Amphipods \* (*Pseudalibrotus*) brought back by Nansen are closely allied to forms peculiar to the Caspian Sea. It is hardly possible to conceive of a more erratic occurrence of creatures practically identical, and the most reasonable explanation is that already provided by the geologists' supposition, usually accepted, viz : the former continuity of the Caspian and the Polar seas.

Many interesting lines of thought are suggested by these remarkable results of Dr. Nansen's expedition. Either the species, practically identical, have originated independently in widely separated localities, or they have been carried from one centre to remote and isolated areas, and have left us representatives in the intervening waters. In the case of the Copepoda there is this profoundly significant point to be noticed that zoologists are agreed upon their primitive and unspecialised character. The Copepoda are regarded as generalised, indeed the whole sub-class Entomostraca is looked upon as resembling the ancestors of the modern

---

\* The common fresh-water shrimp (*Gammarus*) is a typical Amphipod.