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A NATURALIST IN THE FROZEN NORTH.

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Beyond the ordinary range of observation are vast ice-bound and snow-clad regions, where nature, although not there at all times profuse in the manifestation of her life forms, unfolds before the eye of the naturalist who may be fortunate enough to visit those far away places, creatures remarkable in their structure, and quite as remarkable in their life-histories and habits. Something is already known concerning certain of the animals which inhabit the frozen North : much, very much indeed, remains to be found out. The fields where those creatures have struggled to exist, and have survived, are vastly extensive, and their habitats very varied, and often singular. They exist in divers environments : they swarm in the open sea, creep about or remain stationary deep down upon its bed ; they swim at its surface, or fly immediately over it, or yet again in the upper air ; they bury themselves in mucky substances along the beach, or in sand in pools of salt water ; they hide themselves and take refuge among algæ and under stones ; they crawl along among the leaves of stunted plants, and hover among arctic flowers ; they move about amid the azoic rocks of the barrens, and even live beneath the ice in fresh-water ponds formed of melted snow.

Furthermore, there are many delicate forms, such as the medusoids, and other hydrozoans, which cannot well be preserved as museum specimens ; therefore, an adequate conception of those could be acquired only through coloured illustrations, so that they await the skill of an artist, with pencil and brush to figure them on the spot.