

Royal Geographical Society in London (on Feb. 5th, 1897), that "nothing is more remarkable than the scientific element in Nansen's expedition."

How far Dr. Nansen succeeded we have now some means of judging in the handsome volume of scientific memoirs, published in London a few months ago.

When Dr. Nansen was in Ottawa, three years ago, I ventured to ask him what his results were likely to be, and when the scientific world might expect their publication. He said that he had accumulated in his trip such a mass of observations, physical, meteorological, geological, as well as biological, that some years would of necessity elapse before they could be fully worked up into treatises. "The specimens of Crustacea alone," he informed me, knowing my special interest in zoology, "will take my brother-in-law, Dr. Sars, about three years to completely study." That was in 1897, and like so many of Dr. Nansen's anticipations, it has been literally fulfilled, for of the five splendid scientific memoirs contained in the quarto volume just issued by Nansen, the longest, and in some respects most striking, is that upon the Crustacea by Professor G. O. Sars, the brilliant Norse zoologist. It contains some very unexpected information. Thus we learn that floating surface animals of minute size, are abundant even in the most northerly polar waters, though almost perpetually covered by a layer of ice. Mr. Tyrrell has told us that there are lakes in the northern barren grounds sheeted over with thick ice at midsummer, yet abounding in whitefish; but the plenitude of minute crustaceans in the icy surface waters of the Arctic is even more surprising. Most of them are Copepods, an order of almost microscopic crustaceans, of which the common freshwater mite, *Cyclops*, is a familiar example. Most of the sub-class *Entomostraca*, to which the Copepods belong, are small crustaceans with a thin firm cuticle, never a thick shell like the lobster or crayfish, a simple organization, and a variable number of segments or body rings, and jointed legs. Like *Cyclops* they have usually a single median eye at the front of the head. Copepods are frequently colourless and translucent, though they may be orange red, and one species which I observed off the west coast of Ireland, was appropriately enough of a brilliant green colour. They form the