

CHAPTER III.

THE CRUISES OF THE 'PORCUPINE.'

The Equipment of the Vessel.—The first Cruise, under the direction of Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys, off the West Coast of Ireland and in the Channel between Scotland and Rockall.—Dredging carried down to 1,470 fathoms.—Change of Arrangements.—Second Cruise; to the Bay of Biscay.—Dredging successful at 2,435 fathoms.—Third Cruise; in the Channel between Færoe and Shetland.—The Fauna of the 'Cold Area.'

APPENDIX A.—Official Documents and Official Accounts of preliminary Proceedings in connection with the Explorations in H.M. Surveying-vessel 'Porcupine,' during the Summer of 1869.

APPENDIX B.—Particulars of Depth, Temperature, and Position at the various Dredging Stations of H.M.S. 'Porcupine,' in the Summer of 1869.

* * * *The bracketed numbers to the woodcuts in this chapter refer to the dredging stations on Plates II., III., and IV.*

ON the 18th of March, 1869, an oral communication was made by the Hydrographer to the Navy that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had acceded to the wish of the Council of the Royal Society, and that H.M. Surveying-vessel 'Porcupine' had been assigned for the service.

The equipment of the 'Porcupine' progressed rapidly under the direction of her commander, Captain Calver, with the careful superintendence in all matters bearing