

a ship, or how rapidly, even with the greatest care, they become destroyed or lost. For this reason it is necessary to have an almost unlimited supply of those in most frequent use, such as scissors, forceps, and scalpels of all sizes; reserves being rubbed over with mercurial ointment, and stowed away, where they can be looked at from time to time.

The operations carried on in the work-room on shipboard are, of course, very much the same as the ordinary routine work of a museum work-room and a physiological laboratory, and the processes are much the same, only modified by the special nature of our work. We are provided with all the necessary apparatus and arrangements for skinning, mounting, and preparing specimens in all ways, and for dissecting and injecting. By far the greater number of the animals obtained are preserved in spirit; and to the stowage of spirit and of spirit preparations the entire fore-magazine is devoted. The spirit is stored in cylindrical iron vessels, containing each four gallons, and closed by screw-taps; they are stowed in racks in the magazine, and taken up as required, and emptied into the tank in the nettings. Stowed also in racks in the magazine are a series of cases of wide-mouthed specimen-bottles. The cases are numbered and arranged in the racks in order, so that it is only necessary to give the number to the gunner's mate, who has charge of the magazine, and any case required is at once brought up into the work-room for inspection. An exact list is kept of the contents of each case and of each bottle, so that it is never necessary for any member of the scientific staff to go down into the magazine. The bottles in which the greater part of the specimens are preserved are those known in the trade as "drop-bottles," manufactured for holding sweetmeats of various kinds. They are of pale-green glass, very transparent, and are closed by glass stoppers with cork rims. Three sizes are in use, the diameters of the bottles being 6 inches,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches, with mouths  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ , and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches respectively. The bottles