

The facts presented are sufficient to show that temperature has much to do with the distribution of reef-corals in latitude, while proving also that regional peculiarities exist that are not thus accounted for.

II. DISTRIBUTION IN DEPTH.

Quoy and Gaymard were the first authors who ascertained that reef-forming corals were confined to small depths, contrary to the account of Foster and the early navigators. The mistake of previous voyagers was a natural one, for coral reefs were proved to stand in an unfathomable ocean; yet it was from the first a mere opinion, as the fact of corals growing at such depths had never been ascertained. The few species which are met with in deep waters appear to be sparsely scattered, and nowhere form accumulations or beds.

The above-mentioned authors, who explored the Pacific in the *Uranie* under D'Urville (and afterward also in the *Astrolabe*), concluded from their observations that five or six fathoms (30 or 36 feet) limited their downward distribution. Ehrenberg, by his observations on the reefs of the Red Sea, confirmed the observations of Quoy and Gaymard; he concluded that living corals do not occur beyond six fathoms. Mr. Stutchbury, after a visit to some of the Paumotus and Tahiti, remarks, in Volume I. of the West of England Journal, that the living clumps do not rise from a greater depth than sixteen or seventeen fathoms.

Mr. Darwin, who traversed the Pacific with Captain Fitzroy, R.N., gives twenty fathoms as not too great a range.

In his soundings off the fringing reefs of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean, on the leeward side of the island, he observed especially two large species of Madreporæ, and two of *Astræa*; and a *Millepora* down to fifteen fathoms, with also, in the deeper parts, *Seriatopora*; between fifteen and twenty fathoms a bottom mostly of sand, but partly covered with the *Seriatopora*, with a fragment of one of the Madreporæ at twenty fathoms. He states that Capt. Moresby, in