THE RESULTS OF DEEP-SEA INVESTIGATION IN THE
TASMAN SEA.

I.—THE EXPEDITION OF H.M.C.S. "MINER.

1. Introductory Note on the First Deep-Sea Cruise.

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Having been enabled by means of a grant from the Royal
Society of London to procure 3000 fathoms of steel-wire rope
(supplied at cost price by Messrs. Bullivant), and having been
granted, through the courtesy of Brigadier-General Gordon, C.B.,
the use of H.M.C.S. "Miner" with a strong crew under the com-
mand of Lieut.-Colonel J. H. A. Lee, we made on 5th to 7th June
a first essay in deep-sea investigation in the Tasman Sea. The only
soundings on the chart outside the hundred fathom limit are
those recorded by the "Challenger" in 1874; and, depending
upon these, we made our first cast of the dredge when we had
reached a position distant about fifty-five miles due east of Port
Jackson Heads, expecting to reach bottom at a depth of about
2000 fathoms. This was unsuccessful, and, owing to the coming
on of heavy weather, we were obliged to run in nearer to the
coast. Early on the morning of the 7th June the bucket-dredge
was let go in 80 fathoms, twenty-two miles east of Narrabeen,
and returned with a satisfactory load. Leaving this station the
vessel was steered about six miles east by south, and the trawl
was lowered in a depth of 200-300 fathoms. It brought up some
specimens of a Sea-urchin Poroicidarlis elegans, A. Ag., obtained
by the "Challenger" at Station 164a, 410 fathoms, and Station
274, 500 fathoms, half-a-dozen specimens of a large Spatangid, as
yet undetermined, and an undetermined Pennatulid. As the
weather still continued extremely rough we were obliged to
desist and return to port.

During the dredging operations use was made of the surface
net, and at the farthest east limit a rich surface fauna was met
with, comprising Radiolaria, Foraminifera, a Vorticellid, Dino-