

NOTES ON NEOZELANIC DEEPWATER MARINE MOLLUSCA.

By

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(Plate xvii.)

CAPTAIN C. W. OSTENFELD, of the U.S.S. "Kalingo", regularly visiting the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand, has brought to this Museum many interesting objects of natural history. The marine Mollusca are of value, as so little comparatively is known from that locality. However, when he observed that trawling was being carried out, twelve miles off Greymouth, on a bank of shallow depth (about 18 fathoms), the importance of the Mollusca from such a location was impressed upon him. Captain Ostensfeld has secured specimens, and it is with great gratitude that these notes are offered, as comparison may later be more completely made, with better material, with the known fauna of the East Australian Continental Shelf. Trawling has been carried on spasmodically for some forty years in the latter locality, regularly more recently, but still there is much to learn about the Mollusca. The trawling crew members are too busy commercially with fish to pay much attention to Mollusca, and therefore only the very prominent shells are commonly secured. A few trawling captains, such as Smith, Howell, and Möller, have collected smaller shells with very gratifying results.

For the past twenty odd years trawling has been carried out on the East Coast of New Zealand, and many large molluscs have been reported upon by Finlay, Powell, Marwick, and Bucknill. These have been of a similar facies to those of East Australia, with, however, notable distinctions.

Thus, broadly speaking, from East Australia huge Tun shells, massive volutids, false-Helmets, Australwhelks and Carrier shells are commonly secured, and all these have been recorded from Neozelanic waters; but in the case of the volutids a different series is represented. Then, of course, in the latter case the local Struthiolarioids occur, as well as the large Calliostomoid forms, the latter being equalled by *Astete* in East Australia. Again the notable Australian umbilicate cowny, *Umbilia*, is still unknown in New Zealand. A pleatless volute, *Iredalina*, has been recorded from New Zealand, and this is unparalleled in Australian waters up to date. Captain Ostensfeld, however, brought in a huge *Ranella*, a form quite unknown here, but which had been recorded previously from eastern New Zealand. This incited the present note, as it is very similar in general appearance to the well-known Mediterranean shell, known as *Ranella gigantea* Lamarck. I here describe the West Coast shell as