On a small Collection of Crinoids from the Sahul Bank, North Australia. By Prof. F. JEFFREY BELL, M.A., Sec. R.M.S.
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(PLATES XXIII. & XXIV.)

SOME years since Dr. John Anderson, F.R.S., entrusted to the late Dr. Herbert Carpenter a small collection of Crinoids from the Sahul Bank, of which he had become possessed as Superintendent of the Indian Museum, Calcutta. To this collection my lamented friend was never able to give much attention, and he does not appear to have left any notes of his observations on the specimens contained in it. Mr. Wood-Mason, the present Superintendent of the Indian Museum, has allowed me to examine the collection, which I find to present a few points of interest.

Only one species of Stalked Crinoid is represented and none of the individuals are in a very satisfactory condition. There can, however, be no doubt that the species is the *Metacrinus interruptus* of P. H. Carpenter, described on pp. 367-9 of his 'Challenger' Report; the single specimen on which the species was founded was taken in 10° 14' N., 123° 54' E., at a depth of 95 fathoms. The specimens in the present collection were taken from a telegraph-wire in 11° 30' S., 125° E., or about as many degrees south as the other was north of the line; the depth, unfortunately, is not given.

ANTEDON LONGICIRRA.

Antedon longicirra, P. Herbert Carpenter, *Report on the Comatulæ*, Zool. Chall. Exp. vol. xxvi. (1888), p. 103.

Dr. Carpenter founded this species on a single specimen, and was therefore unacquainted with the very considerable range of variation in the length of the cirri in different specimens of this species. While one specimen may have cirri 80 or more millim. long, as in the type, in others the cirri may not be more than 60 millim. long. In this point, therefore, the cirri may be more like those of *A. incerta* than of *A. longicirra*. The present specimens are shown, by the simple condition of the second pinnule and the comparative shortness of the joints of the cirri, to belong to *A. longicirra*. When I first noticed the variation in the length of the cirri, I thought it might be possible to show that the two

species (*A. incerta* and *A. longicirra*) should be united. The other distinctive characters, however, on which Carpenter insists seem, so far as *A. longicirra* is concerned, to be constant, and with the present condition of our collections the species can still be readily distinguished.

ANTEDON WOOD-MASONI, sp. n. (Pl. XXIII. & Pl. XXIV., fig. 1.)

This new species belongs to Carpenter's *Spinifera*-group; that is, it is bi-distichate and has some of the basal joints more or less wall-sided. As it has more than thirty cirrus-joints, the more distal of which are spiny, the first pinnule as long as or longer than the second, and the cirri not arranged in rows on the centro-dorsal, it stands nearest to *A. duplex* (P. H. C. MSS.) and *A. lusitanica*. The former of these has from 30–40 cirrus-joints, the latter 50; the present would appear to have from 35 to 45; the radial axillaries are short and wide as in *A. lusitanica*, and there is no noticeable expansion of any of the joints of the pinnules.

The following may serve as a specific diagnosis:—

A member of the *Spinifera*-group, and falling under the same subdivision as *A. duplex* and *A. lusitanica*. Centrodorsal rather large, but not columnar, the central portion free of cirrus-sockets; about 18 cirri, with 35–45 joints; these begin to be spiny at about the tenth joint, and the spine, though not large, is quite well marked. First radials hidden, the second much wider than long, slightly concave on its distal side; the axillary wide, with two slight concavities for the reception of the first distichal, which again is much wider than long; the distichal axillary of much the same shape as the radial; the two visible radials and the distichals have a median linear tubercle.

20 arms. Basal joints with fairly regular sides; the third a syzygy; then one, ordinarily, on the 12th or 14th joint; then not another for 12 or 14 joints. The arm-joints gradually become triangular, flattened from side to side, and provided with a median ridge. The pinnules are styliform, but short and with simple joints; they increase somewhat in length nearer the end of the arm.

Diameter of disk 6 millim. Length of arms 110 millim.

Colour white, with faint patches of brown here and there.

Hab. Sahul Bank, North Australia.

In Coll. B.M. and Ind. Mus., Calcutta.

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