

ADDITIONS TO THE FISH-FAUNA OF LORD HOWE
ISLAND, No. 4.

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(Plates xvii.-xxiv., and fig. 32.)

In my last contribution I wrote¹:—"Towards the end of the year I hope to spend two or three weeks on Lord Howe Island, for the purpose of studying the fishes, and in a more thorough manner than was possible on the occasion of my short and unprepared visit in 1898."

After two days steaming from Sydney, I arrived at the island on 3rd December, 1902, by the S.S. "Tambo," together with Mr. A. R. McCulloch, who accompanied me as an assistant. It was our intention to return by the S.S. "Titus," due at the island about December 20th, but she did not put in an appearance until Christmas Day, and was then seen about nine miles outside the reef in a lumpy sea. Owing to the entire absence of any shelter, landing is difficult and dangerous in heavy weather, we were not therefore surprised when the vessel hoisted a signal and turning westward made for Sydney. I was thus, for the second time, left, contrary to my intentions. We finally got away by the "Tambo" on her return from the New Hebrides, arriving in Sydney on January 21st. What had thus been organised as a private holiday, in which my wife and son participated, encroached upon, and terminated in official time. Our enforced stay was not however a matter for regret as the general conditions proved much more propitious during the second period, and we were in consequence able to work more satisfactorily and with much better results.

Unfortunately at no time were the tides wholly favourable, we were thus unable to work the outermost portion of the reef, and it so fell that when the tides were lower, heavy weather interfered with collecting.

In addition to the usual fishing gear, nets, lines, traps, etc., we had an ample supply of explosives and poisons, and for permission to use these otherwise illegal methods, I wish to express my thanks to the Fishery Commissioners of New South Wales. I have also to thank Messrs. Keele and Cameron of the

¹ Waite—Rec. Aust. Mus., v., 1903, p. 20.