

AUSTRALIAN MOLLUSCAN NOTES.

No. 1.

By

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(Plates xxii-xxv.)

To these RECORDS I have contributed notes on the mollusca trawled off the continental shelf,¹ and also stray notes on other forms from New South Wales. More material is being received from the trawlers through the assistance of Captain K. Möller, and another enthusiast, Mr. W. Dingeldei. The latter has also collected many specimens from the dredge dump at Dundas, and some interesting records are here chronicled from his efforts. I have reported² many strange molluscs in Sydney Harbour secured by means of examining the dredgings made by the dredge "Triton." The master, Captain Comtesse, has continued his researches, and has also obtained the assistance of other members of his crew, and recently Mr. E. F. Nash was placed in command of the dumping of the material at Dundas on the Parramatta River. Examination of the dump has revealed many interesting species and has shown that the tropical fauna was more extensive than anticipated, and was immensely rich. Later some of the more interesting points may be detailed, but as the continuous search is still productive speculation may be withheld. One point may be emphasized, however, and that is that the tropical forms appear to show more relationship with those of New Caledonia than with those of the Queensland coast.

As in my previous articles, I have to thank Miss J. K. Allan and Mr. G. C. Clutton, of this Museum, for the excellent drawings and photographs which embellish this paper and which render the species easily recognizable.

Solemya velesiana sp. nov.

No large shells have yet been found after over one hundred years' search by excellent collectors, so that it seems reasonable to conclude that the Sydney shell is always small, and therefore a species distinct from the large shell inhabiting southern Australia, which, moreover, was described from King George's Sound, south-western Australia. The local species is more like the Queensland shell described as *Solemya terræreginæ* Iredale,³ but more dilated anteriorly and more closely ribbed posteriorly.

The generic name *Solemya* was introduced by Lamarck with two species *australis* and *mediterranea*. Children in 1823 named *mediterranea* as type, observing that Lamarck's type was *australis*, an observation negating his selec-

¹ Iredale.—Rec. Aust. Mus., xiv, 1925, pp. 243-270; xvii, 1929, pp. 157-189.

² Iredale.—Aust. Zool., v, 1929, pp. 337-352.

³ Iredale.—Mem. Q'land Mus., ix, June 29, 1929, p. 262, pl. xxx, fig. 13.