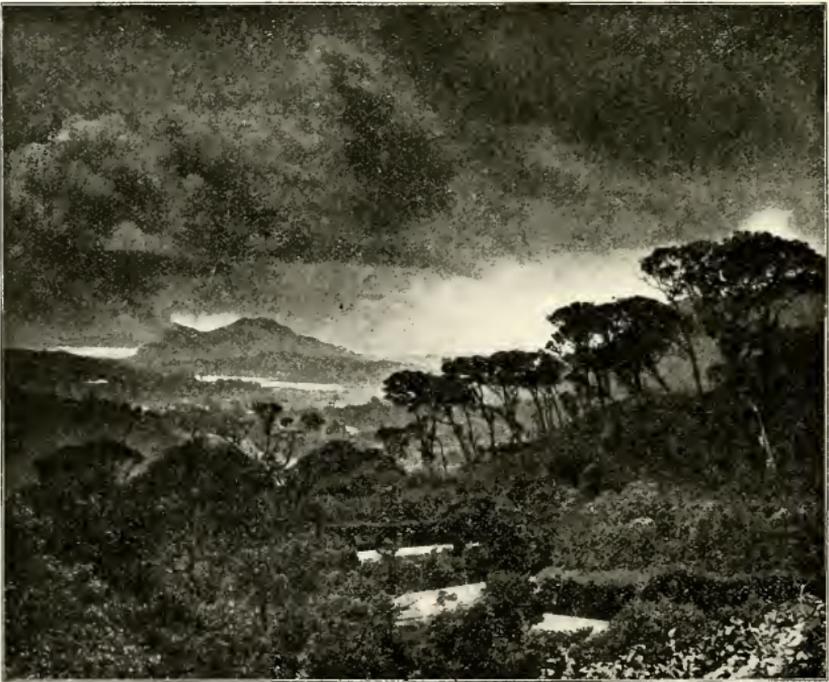


## PROFESSOR HAECKEL AS AN ARTIST.

BY THE EDITOR.

SOME time ago we called attention to Professor Haeckel's work on *Art Forms in Nature* which was appearing in installments, and now we make the announcement that the work has been completed and lies before us in a stately folio volume, containing 100



VIEW FROM THE RAMBODDE PASS.

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After a photograph from Haeckel's *Wanderbilder*.

plates, many of them colored, and accompanied by descriptive text.\*

The elegant beauty of some of the lower forms of life is sur-

\* *Kunstformen der Natur*. Leipsic, 1906.

prising, and it seems that these pictures and photographs should be of rare value to artists, especially those who work in the line of



COCOA ISLAND AND REST HOUSE AT BELLIGEMMA.

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arabesque and kindred designs. The different creatures from the lowest ranks of life, plants as well as animals, present an astonish-

ing wealth of types, some of them just ready for immediate use as ornaments, either for designs or plastic forms. We have reproduced a few of these wonderful art forms in nature in a former number



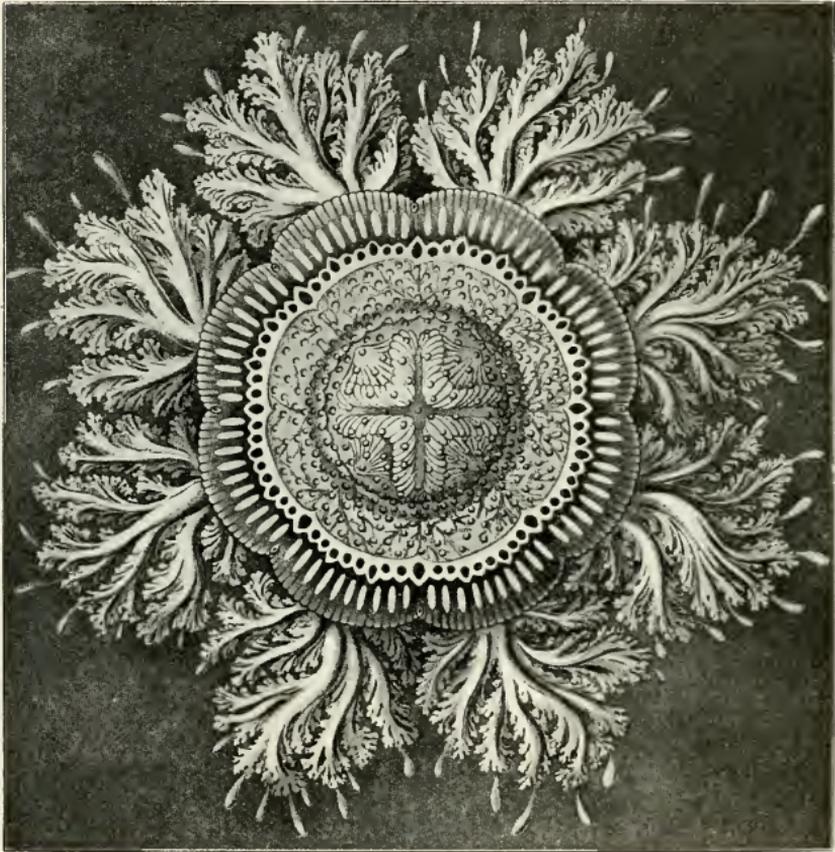
THE SACRED BODHI TREE.

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of *The Open Court*, and we refer the reader to Vol. XVI, p. 47. But not only the selection of these art forms in nature proves the artistic spirit of Haeckel, but also another publication which is a

portfolio of sketches made by our famous friend on a journey to eastern lands.

When I saw Professor Haeckel at his home some years ago, he showed me some colored sketches which he had made on his trip to the East Indies. Though the pictures were perhaps not perfect in technique they exhibited a real artistic talent, especially a remarkably well developed sense for color effects, and at the time



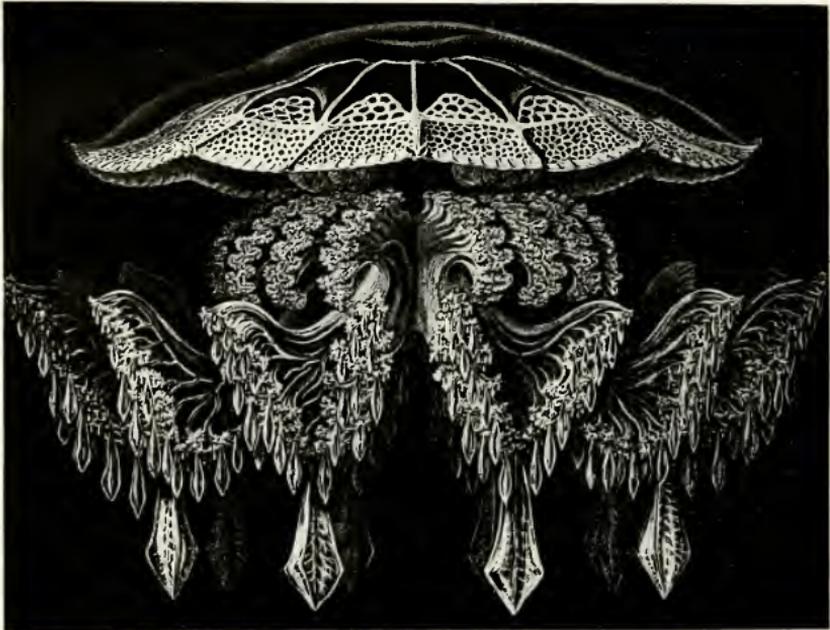
RHIZOSTOME (*Toreuma belligemma*).

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I expressed the opinion that the pictures would be interesting to the public. Professor Haeckel seemed reluctant to publish them and deemed it advisable to wait. We are glad to note that he has finally brought out these pictures in an attractive portfolio form, and very beautiful they are indeed. We can only recommend them, and wish to call attention to this new phase of the famous naturalist's life-

work.\* Though Professor Haeckel has not passed through a regular course of artistic education, and though his technique may show some shortcomings, we make bold to say that these sketches prove him to be a genuine divinely inspired artist. The way in which he sees nature and especially the rich tints of the southern landscape will be interesting to both psychologists and art critics.

Bearing in mind the original sketches,—so far as I still remember them,—I have the impression that the color prints are excellent reproductions, and I only wish that we could offer to our readers



CHANDELIER MEDUSA (*Rhopilema Frida*).

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one sample of them in colors. I select for reproduction two crayon sketches which will be helpful in giving an impression of the general character of the work, and I can assure my readers that they show all of Professor Haeckel's deficiencies without showing at the same time his remarkable talent in color drawing. One of the pictures represents the Cocoa Island and the rest house for pilgrims near Belligemma, Ceylon; another will be interesting for historical reasons because it pictures the famous Bodhi tree which was planted in Ceylon more than a millennium ago by Buddhist missionaries,

\* *Wanderbilder*. Von Prof. Ernst Haeckel. Sec. I and II, *Die Naturwunder der Tropenwelt (Insulinde und Ceylon)* nach eigenen Aquarellen und Oelgemälden. Gera-Untermhaus: Koehler, 1906.

perhaps by Mahinda himself, from a sprout of the Bodhi tree at Buddhagaya, which at the time was still in full bloom.

The work contains also some art forms of nature and photographs. Of the former we reproduce an interesting rhizostome of Ceylon (*Toreuma belligemma*) bearing the sign of an equilateral cross in the center and bedecked with a net work not unlike a doily or pin cushion surrounded by frills. Another aquatic being of peculiar shape is the chandelier medusa (*Rhopilema Frida*) a species which was observed and photographed by Professor Haeckel during his stay at Insulinde, Japan. A photograph of peculiar beauty is the one of an approaching thunderstorm at the Rambodde Pass in Ceylon.

Professor Haeckel has again and again concluded that he would retire to privacy and discontinue the publication of new books. He has surprised us several times by his new labors, and we can not but congratulate him on this new phase of his literary activity which shows the renowned author in a new, and at the same time a brilliant light.