

This table shows at a glance that the greater portion of the ocean-floor is covered by deep water, *i.e.* by water exceeding 1000 fathoms in depth, equal to more than four-fifths of the entire superficies of the ocean, two-thirds being occupied by water exceeding 2000 fathoms in depth, while only one-fifteenth of the entire sea-floor is covered by water exceeding 3000 fathoms in depth.

Those parts of the ocean in which depths greater than 3000 fathoms have been recorded are called "deeps," and have had distinctive names conferred upon them, just as mountain ranges and peaks on the dry land (Mount Everest, for example) are distinguished by names. These deeps are shown on Map II., and will presently be dealt with in some detail.

The table also shows that a comparatively large area, about one-sixth of the ocean-floor, is covered by water less than 1000 fathoms in depth, of which by far the greater proportion is covered by still shallower water. Thus if we divide this area into two portions by the 500-fathoms line, we find that the area within that line is about 17 million square miles (or over 12 per cent of the entire ocean) compared with only $4\frac{1}{2}$ million square miles (or 3 per cent of the entire ocean) beyond that line, *i.e.* having depths between 500 and 1000 fathoms. Again, of the area covered by less than 500 fathoms of water, more than one-half is occupied by the continental shelf or continental plateau lying between the shore-line and the 100-fathoms line, which has elsewhere¹ been estimated at 7 per cent of the whole ocean. The relatively large area covered by the gentle slopes of the continental shelf in depths less than 100 fathoms, as compared with the relatively small area covered by the steeper gradients of the continental slope in depths greater than 100 fathoms, is strikingly shown by these figures, for while about 7 per cent of the ocean-floor lies within the 100-fathoms line, only about 5 per cent occurs within the next succeeding 400 fathoms (between the 100- and 500-fathoms lines), and only about 3 per cent within the next succeeding 500 fathoms (between the 500- and 1000-fathoms lines).

The position occupied by the junction of the continental shelf with the continental slope, as indicated by the change of gradient, has been called the continental edge (see Fig. 144, p. 198), and varies in depth according to circumstances, but on the average all over the world is not far from the 100-fathoms

¹ Sir John Murray, Presidential Address to the Geographical Section of the British Association, Dover, 1899.