

with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million square miles between 500 and 1000 fathoms. This is due to the large expanses of shallow water in the Arctic regions and Hudson Bay, on the Banks of Newfoundland, off the east coasts of North and South America, between Greenland and the British Isles, around the British Isles, and in the Baltic.

The most striking feature of the Atlantic Ocean is certainly the low central ridge (dividing the ocean into eastern and western deep basins), which was until recently supposed to be continuous from Iceland through both the North and South Atlantic as far as lat.  $40^{\circ}$  S., but is now known to be discontinuous in the neighbourhood of the equator; on the other hand, it has been extended farther south by the soundings taken on board the "Scotia" in 1904 by Dr. W. S. Bruce, so that the southern limit of the ridge now extends as far south as lat.  $53^{\circ}$  S. At the position of the break in the ridge on the equator the floor of the ocean seems to be more than usually irregular, for depths less than 2000 fathoms alternate with depths exceeding 3000 and even 4000 fathoms. On this ridge, with the exception of the Azores group, the only islands are St. Paul's Rocks, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, and Gough Island. The northern extremity of the ridge between lat.  $50^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$  N. is peculiar because of the number of isolated soundings exceeding 2000 fathoms apparently surrounded by shallower water.

Mid-Atlantic ridge.

Another point that strikes one in the Atlantic is the gentle slope off the American coasts and off the coasts of the British Isles, as compared with the slopes off Africa and off Spain and Portugal. This is still more remarkable when compared with the slopes off the Pacific coasts of America. The wide shore platform off the coast of the southern half of South America is especially noteworthy, as well as that off the coasts of the United States and Newfoundland. The shallow area surrounding Rockall Bank also attracts attention. The series of banks made known as a result of the work of telegraph ships, off the north-west coast of Africa to the north of the Canary Islands, is another striking instance of the irregularity of the floor of the Atlantic. In the same neighbourhood the area with depths less than 2000 fathoms surrounding Madeira and extending northwards towards the coast of Portugal is remarkable. In the South Atlantic, besides the central ridge, three smaller shallow areas should be noted, two neighbouring ones to the east of the South American coast in lat.  $30^{\circ}$  S., and the third midway between the ridge and the Cape of Good Hope.

Shore-slopes of the Atlantic.

Submarine banks of the Atlantic.