

land-slopes throughout the basin are, as in the Pacific, steeper than those of the Atlantic. The ratio between the two areas on either side of the 500-fathoms line is again much less than in the case of the Atlantic, the area less than 500 fathoms in the Indian Ocean being over 2 million square miles, as compared with less than 1 million square miles for the area between 500 and 1000 fathoms.

The Indian Ocean, unlike the other two, is completely land-locked to the north. The area with depths less than 1000 fathoms forms a zone of varying width along the main land-masses, a fairly wide zone round the various island groups, and extends into the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. The area with depths between 1000 and 2000 fathoms is made up of the greater part of the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, a fairly wide belt along the east coast of Africa, a much narrower one along the western shores of the Sunda Islands and Australia, a large expanse between Tasmania and the Antarctic continent which narrows considerably towards the west, and a large tract extending from lat. 30° to 55° S. and long. 35° to 94° E., forming a plateau on which are situated the islands of Prince Edward, Crozet, Kerguelen, M'Donald, Heard, St. Paul, and Amsterdam, as well as one or two small isolated areas.

Indian Ocean area with depths between 1000 and 2000 fathoms.

With the exception of a comparatively small area in the Southern Ocean, about lat. 60° S. to the south of Australia, the area with depths between 2000 and 3000 fathoms is a continuous one, though interrupted by areas of deeper and shallower water; it is continuous with the corresponding area of the Atlantic, but distinct from that of the Pacific, being separated from it by the rise that runs southwards from Tasmania to the Antarctic continent.

Indian Ocean area exceeding 2000 fathoms.

The areas exceeding 3000 fathoms in depth are referred to under the next heading.

*Deep.*—As already indicated, those areas of the ocean-floor covered by more than 3000 fathoms (5486 metres) of water have been called Deep, and, though occupying a relatively small proportion of the ocean-floor, estimated in the aggregate at about 9 million square miles, they are extremely interesting from an oceanographical point of view. Map II. shows the distribution of these deeps throughout the great ocean basins, according to the present state of our knowledge, and it will be seen that the total number is fifty-seven, of which thirty-two occur in the Pacific, five in the Indian Ocean, nineteen in

Deep.

Number of known deeps.