

sentative of the quantities living in the sea. For instance, it is clear that the intensity of fishing is not only determined by the abundance of fish, the prices and the distances to fish markets being (among others) very important points. But notwithstanding these drawbacks, we possess at the present time hardly any better means of judging of the abundance of fish in different areas than the information regarding the capture of edible fish contained in the fishery statistics of recent years. An enormous fleet of modern fishing steamers (see Fig. 311) is now distributed from Cape Kanin, at the mouth of the White Sea, down to Morocco, that is to say, over the area investigated by the "Michael Sars."

From the statistics published by Dr. Kyle of the International Bureau for the Study of the Sea, we have compiled two tables recording the capture of bottom-fish in 1906. One (Table A) shows the catch of each species in each fishing area expressed in percentages of the quantity of the species landed from all areas; the other (Table B) shows the catch of each species expressed in percentages of the aggregate quantity landed from each area. The tables deal with nearly a million tons of fish of all kinds from all waters, the quantities varying greatly in different areas. First of all is the North Sea with nearly 400,000 tons, or nearly 40 per cent of the total quantity; then comes the coast of Norway, north of Stat, with 28 per cent, Iceland with 18 per cent, the Faroe Islands with 4 per cent, the region north-west of the British Isles with 5 per cent, the Bay of Biscay, Portugal, and Morocco with less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent each. Among the different bottom-fish the cod plays the most important part with no less than 44 per cent, next comes the haddock with 25 per cent, plaice with $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, saithe with $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, ling 3 per cent, and hake with a little above 2 per cent, of the total quantity.

Considering now the abundance of each species in each of the nine areas recognised by the fishery statistics, we first observe that most of the species have their maximum abundance in the North Sea. This applies principally to the haddock, the whiting, the species of *Bothus*, the plaice, the lemon sole, and the dab. The intensity of the fishing in the North Sea is, of course, to some extent responsible for this. But nevertheless we find several exceptions. Thus the Norway haddock (*Sebastes*), the cod, the saithe, and the tusk are taken in the greatest quantities off the coast of Norway, the halibut at Iceland. On the other hand, we find in regard to dog-fish,