

marked in its phenomena and in its results; but the continuity of the meridional land-belt is broken nearly opposite the point where the current has its greatest force, and a great part of that force is lost, and a considerable portion of the current itself is dissipated, among the passages of the Malayan Archipelago. Perhaps even a larger proportion of the Pacific equatorial current than of the Atlantic current is diverted northward, for it is guided by the long crescentic broken barrier consisting of the Fiji Islands, the New Hebrides, and Papua; and the branch which passes down the east coast of Australia is comparatively insignificant; but the northern division passes at once into the region of the monsoons, where it is baffled for half the year, and one is almost surprised to find the Kuro Siwa a powerful, tolerably permanent warm current, sweeping round the south of Japan, and exercising in the North Pacific a thermic influence which is certainly comparable with that of the Gulf-stream. The two diagrams, Fig. 100 and Fig. 101 respectively, are curves constructed from serial soundings taken in the Atlantic and in the Pacific, as near as possible to the parallel 35° N., and they show fairly the correspondence in principle and the divergence in detail in the distribution of heat in the two seas. The abnormal curve No. 44, in Fig. 100, is from the sounding in the Labrador current within the cold-wall of the Gulf-stream; and the abnormal curve No. 240, Fig. 101, is constructed from a serial sounding in a cold current which passes into the North Pacific from the Sea of Okotsk, probably through Pico or Boussole Channel. This may be only a summer current, and due in a great measure to the melting of the snow over the enormous drainage area of the Amur and the Southern Siberian rivers. Curves No. 80 and A and B in Fig. 100 are introduced to show what we are inclined to regard as the underlap of the water of the equatorial reflux, steadily cooling but still abnormally warm, against the coast of Europe. The tables on page 367 give the positions of the serial soundings: