

a single month, or for the whole year, instantly declares itself as one of a system of curves which are referred to the Strait of Florida as a source of heat, and the flow of warm water may be traced in a continuous stream, indicated when its movement can no longer be observed by its form,—fanning out from the neighbourhood of the Strait across the Atlantic, skirting the coasts of France, Britain, and Scandinavia, rounding the North Cape and passing the White Sea and the Sea of Kari, bathing the western shores of Novaja Semla and Spitzbergen, and finally coursing round the coast of Siberia, a trace of it still remaining to find its way through the narrow and shallow Behring's Strait into the North Pacific (see Plate VII.).

Now, it seems to me that if we had only these curves upon the chart, deduced from an almost infinite number of observations which are themselves merely laboriously multiplied corroborations of many previous ones, without having any clue to their rationale, we should be compelled to admit that whatever might be the amount and distribution of heat derived from a general oceanic circulation,—whether produced by the prevailing winds of the region, by convection, by unequal barometric pressure, by tropical heat, or by arctic cold,—the Gulf-stream, the majestic stream of warm water whose course is indicated by the deflections of the isothermal lines, is sufficiently powerful to mask all the rest, and, broadly speaking, to produce of itself all the abnormal thermal phenomena.

The deep-sea temperatures taken in the 'Porcupine' have an important bearing upon this question,