



Fig. 54.—Diagram of the Vertical Distribution of Temperature at Station CXII.

the Labrador Current below $1^{\circ}5$ C. opposite Halifax, that temperature being only found at the bottom.)

The isothermobaths of 2° , $2^{\circ}5$, 3° , and 4° C. are very constant at 1500, 900, 600, and 400 fathoms respectively, for all the stations on the parallel except Station CCCXXIII. on the "cold wall," where all the lower temperature-lines are at a much higher level, and at the shallow sounding at Station CCCXXXI., where all the lines below that of 4° C. rise slightly. We must be careful, however, not to attach too much importance to slight deviations of the colder lines. On the scale used in the plates, the mean interval between the isothermobaths of 2° and 3° C. in the Atlantic is 1000 fathoms; so that a rise or fall of 100 fathoms, which is very prominent on such diagrams, actually represents only one-tenth of a centigrade degree, an amount very small in itself, and quite within the limit of error of observation with a deep-sea thermometer. It is only where there is a concordance among several isothermobathic lines in such a rise or fall that the indication is of any real value.

From these observations we learn that along the line where the southwestern trough of the Atlantic joins the Southern Sea the temperature falls