

in much deeper water than in any other of the great ocean basins.

Diatom ooze occurs typically only in extra-tropical regions, forming a broad almost circumpolar band in the great Southern Ocean, outside the zone of Blue mud bordering the Antarctic continent, and a smaller band along the extreme northern border of the Pacific Ocean, along the Alaskan and British Columbian coasts of North America, and the Kamtchatkan and Japanese coasts of Asia and the intervening Aleutian Islands.

Radiolarian ooze covers the sea-floor in certain portions of the tropical regions of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, being apparently entirely unrepresented in the Atlantic; it occurs in a band of varying width in the equatorial eastern Pacific, approaching comparatively close to the shores of Central America, and in other smaller isolated areas.

Red clay is the most characteristic and most extensive of the pelagic deposits, occupying the deepest portions of the great ocean basins except in the polar regions, extending beyond lat. 50° N. and S. in the Pacific, and between lat. 40° N. and S. in the Atlantic. It is the typical deposit of the great Pacific Ocean, attaining there its maximum development, and being associated over wide areas with the characteristic manganese nodules; in the Indian Ocean it is also associated with much manganese, and therefore usually of a dark chocolate colour, while in the Atlantic it is generally intermixed with less manganese and usually of a light red-brown colour.

Vertical
distribution.

As regards the vertical distribution of the deposits, we have already indicated how gradual is the transition between the various types and classes, so that frequently two or more names might be used to characterise samples from the border regions. It is therefore evident that no definite limits of depth can be assigned to the different types of deposits, but their general distribution may be broadly outlined.

The terrigenous deposits have for their upper limit the shore-line, while their lower limit varies according to local conditions. We have already pointed out that in certain localities Blue mud may be restricted to the continental slope within depths less than 1000 fathoms, while in other localities it may extend far into the abysmal area in depths exceeding 2000 fathoms, and in some places approaching 3000 fathoms. Coral mud may extend into depths approaching 2000 fathoms before passing gradually into a Globigerina ooze, but sometimes it merges into Pteropod ooze in depths less than 1000 fathoms,