obtained when we consider the enormous difference in the *number* of animals brought up by the trawl from the two regions in question.

The Fishes of the Continental Slopes

The angle of the slopes rising from the abyssal plain towards the coast varies in different parts of the globe, being in some places steeper than in others. The percentages of the ocean-floor given on p. 132 show that the steepest angle occurs between 500 and 1000 fathoms, while the slope between 1000 and 2000 fathoms is much steeper than in the upper 100 fathoms. Between the shore-line and the 100-fathoms line the angle of the slope is low, and this area is regarded as a special region, generally termed the coast-plateau, or the continental shelf or platform (see Fig. 144, p. 198). The fishermen's term for this section of the sea-bottom is "the banks," and the narrow intermediate belt between the coast-plateau and the continental slope is by the fishermen termed "the edge."

"Michael Sars" hauls on the continental slope.

One of the objects of the "Michael Sars" Expedition was to make a number of trawlings on the continental slopes of the Atlantic in different latitudes, in order to study the fish-fauna at different depths and under varying conditions. We succeeded in making quite a number of good hauls, and, taken together with the captures of other expeditions (especially those of the French deep-sea expeditions), they give a good representation of the different fish-faunas. Our stations along the slope may be divided into three groups :—

1. West of Great Britain (including some hauls from localities south of the Faroe Islands in the year 1902).
2. Spanish Bay, west of Morocco.
3. South of the Canaries.

First of all, we will consider the number of fishes caught in these hauls at different depths, as recorded in the following table, and next we will investigate the vertical and horizontal distribution of the species :—