Many thousands of samples of terrigenous deposits have been examined from the shallower depths of nearly all oceans and enclosed seas. Of pelagic deposits more than 2000 samples from depths exceeding 1000 fathoms—over 1600 from the Atlantic, 300 from the Indian Ocean, and 400 from the Pacific—have passed through our hands. Even when the sample of a deposit has not been examined, the information furnished by marine surveyors and telegraph engineers is often sufficient to make known the type of deposit in the locality. The chart showing the distribution of the deposits, together with the following table, giving the approximate areas occupied by each type of deposit, have been constructed from a great number of reliable data, so that the broad outlines of distribution here presented are not likely to be much modified by future discoveries.

The total area of the surface of the globe has been estimated at 196,940,700 square miles, of which dry land occupies about 53,681,400 square miles, and the waters of the ocean 143,259,300 square miles.[1] In the following table the approximate extent of the areas of the sea-floor occupied by each type of marine deposit is given, together with the mean depth.

*Table showing the Mean Depth and the Estimated Area Covered by Marine Deposits on the Floor of the Ocean.*

| | | Mean Depth in Fathoms. | Area in Square Miles. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Littoral Deposits (between tide-marks), | | ... | 62,500 |
| Shallow-water Deposits (from low-water mark to 100 fathoms), | | ... | 10,000,000 |
| Terrigenous Deposits (in deep and shallow water close to land), | Coral Mud, | 740 | 2,556,800[2] |
| | Coral Sand, | 176 | |
| | Volcanic Mud, | 1033 | 600,000[2] |
| | Volcanic Sand, | 243 | |
| | Green Mud, | 513 | 850,000[2] |
| | Green Sand, | 449 | |
| | Red Mud, | 623 | 100,000 |
| | Blue Mud, | 1411 | 14,500,000 |
| Pelagic Deposits (in deep water removed from land), | Pteropod Ooze, | 1044 | 400,000 |
| | Globigerina Ooze, | 1996 | 49,520,000 |
| | Diatom Ooze, | 1477 | 10,880,000 |
| | Radiolarian Ooze, | 2894 | 2,290,000 |
| | Red Clay, | 2730 | 51,500,000 |

[1] Murray, "On the Height of the Land and the Depth of the Ocean," *Scot. Geogr. Mag.*, vol. iv. pp. 1-41, 1888; vol. vi. p. 265, 1890.

[2] These areas differ from those given in the descriptions, in which are included deposits from the shallow-water zone.