line, coinciding generally with what we have designated the mud-line.[1]

Let us now consider the distribution of depth in the three great oceans (the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Indian Oceans), regarding them as extending in each case as far south as the shores of the Antarctic continent.

Atlantic Ocean.—The Atlantic may be looked upon as including the Arctic Ocean and Norwegian Sea, the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico, and as being separated from the Pacific in the south at the meridian of Cape Horn (long. 70° W.) and from the Indian Ocean at the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope (long. 20° E.). As thus defined the Atlantic Ocean covers an area of about 41,321,000 square English miles, the distribution of depth being shown in the following table :—

Area of the Atlantic sea-floor at different depths.

Fathoms.	Square English Miles.	Percentage.
0–1000	11,388,000	27.56
1000–2000	7,531,000	18.22
2000–3000	19,539,000	47.29
3000–4000	2,848,000	6.89
Over 4000	15,000	0.04
	41,321,000	100.00

These figures show that nearly three-fourths of the Atlantic sea-floor are covered by water exceeding 1000 fathoms in depth, and over one-half by water exceeding 2000 fathoms in depth, but the most characteristic feature of this ocean when compared with the Pacific and Indian Oceans is the large proportion covered by water less than 1000 fathoms in depth. The table shows that this shallowest zone (from 0–1000 fathoms, which includes both the continental shelf and the continental slope) covers about 11½ million square miles, while the succeeding zone (1000–2000 fathoms) covers only 7½ million square miles. If again we divide the shallowest zone into two portions by the 500-fathoms line, the predominance of the area covered by shallow water is still more pronounced, the area less than 500 fathoms being nearly 10 million square miles as compared

Continental shelf and slope in the Atlantic.

[1] Murray and Renard, Deep-Sea Deposits Chall. Exp. p. 185, 1891 ; Murray, Summary of Results Chall. Exp. p. 1433, 1895.