

Deepest
deeps.

the Atlantic, and one partly in the Atlantic and partly in the Indian Ocean. From the point of view of depth the Challenger Deep in the North Pacific and the Aldrich Deep in the South Pacific are the most important, for only these two include depths exceeding 5000 fathoms, while in eight other deeps depths exceeding 4000 fathoms have been recorded. On the other hand, in some cases the deeps enclose low rises, on which the depth is less than 3000 fathoms. The deeps vary in form and size to a most extraordinary degree, and future soundings may show that some of them should be subdivided into two or more portions, or that two or more deeps as now laid down should be united into a single deep.

Largest
deeps.

From the point of view of superficial area, the most important deeps are the Valdivia, Murray, Tuscarora, Wharton, Nares, Aldrich, and Swire Deep, which are estimated to cover in each case an area exceeding 500,000 square miles. In the following paragraphs the principal deeps of the world are briefly characterised, arranged in the order of magnitude:—

Valdivia
Deep.

Valdivia Deep lies in the far south, partly in the Atlantic and partly in the Indian Ocean. It is based principally on soundings taken by the German Deep-Sea Expedition on board the "Valdivia," and has a maximum depth of 3134 fathoms. It is estimated to cover a total area of 1,136,000 square miles, nearly one-half of which (523,000 square miles) lies to the west of long. 20° E., *i.e.* within the Atlantic basin, while the remaining half (613,000 square miles) lies to the east of that meridian, and is therefore in the basin of the Indian Ocean. The outline of this deep, especially in its western portion, is largely hypothetical, and future soundings may modify the area assigned to it at present.

Murray
Deep.

Murray Deep, situated in the Central North Pacific between lat. 25° and 40° N., is estimated to cover an area of about 1,033,000 square miles, and is founded on soundings taken partly by the "Challenger" Expedition. The maximum depth recorded in it is 3540 fathoms, and there is a small area within the deep in the vicinity of this deepest sounding where depths of only 2800 and 2900 fathoms are recorded.

Tuscarora
Deep.

Tuscarora Deep lies in the North-Western Pacific, and is of elongated form, extending from the Tropic of Cancer north-eastwards to near the Aleutian Islands in lat. 52° N., approaching to within a comparatively short distance of the shores of Japan and the Kurile Islands. Its area is estimated at 908,000 square miles, and the maximum depth is 4655 fathoms, recorded