

while in the lagoons of coral islands it may be found in a few feet of water. Volcanic mud may be found extending into very deep water—in fact, some of the deepest Red clays might be called Volcanic muds, so abundant are the minute fragments of pumice and volcanic glass—but in the neighbourhood of volcanic islands the material from the land is generally masked by the accumulation of pelagic shells, and the Volcanic mud may pass into Pteropod ooze in depths of about 1000 fathoms, or into Globigerina ooze in depths of 1500 or 2000 fathoms. Green mud and Red mud generally occur in depths less than 1000 fathoms, the seaward limit being about 1300 or 1400 fathoms.

Of the pelagic deposits, Pteropod ooze is found in shallower water than any of the other types—from about 400 fathoms to about 1500 fathoms, its seaward limit being reached in about 1700 or 1800 fathoms. Globigerina ooze may be found in all depths from about 400 fathoms to over 3000 fathoms, but occurs typically in depths between about 1200 and 2200 fathoms, its deeper limit in the Pacific and Indian Oceans occurring at about 2800 or 2900 fathoms, while in the North Atlantic it is known in depths approaching 3500 fathoms. Diatom ooze occurs usually in depths of about 600 to over 2000 fathoms, but in the North Pacific it is found in depths of 4000 fathoms. Radiolarian ooze is a characteristically deep-water deposit, hardly known in depths less than 2000 fathoms, and covers the bottom at the greatest depths recorded by the “Challenger” and “Nero” in 4500 to over 5000 fathoms. Radiolarian ooze may, however, be regarded as a mere variety of Red clay, containing a notable proportion of these siliceous remains as a result of the favourable conditions in the surface waters. Red clay is the typical deep-water deposit, and covers wide areas in depths exceeding 2000 fathoms, occupying the sea-floor in all the “deeps” except in one or two cases in the North Atlantic, being displaced in certain parts of the Pacific and Indian Ocean by its variety, Radiolarian ooze.

The rate of deposition of materials on the sea-floor is naturally beyond the range of direct measurement, at all events in deep water. The only observations bearing on this point have been recorded by Mr. Peake, who in 1903 on board the S.S. “Faraday” raised and repaired a telegraph cable lying in 2300 fathoms in lat. 50° N. and long. 31° W. in the North Atlantic. This same cable had been lifted from a depth of 2000 fathoms about 200 miles to the eastward in 1888 by

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