

basin (see Fig. 143), more than 3000 metres deep in the central portion. From this depth the floor rises gradually towards the continental slope on either side. The main features of the continental slope and shelf along the coast of Norway will be grasped by reference to the accompanying diagram (Fig. 144). The term "coast banks" is usually applied to the higher parts of the submerged continental plateau or continental shelf, which are frequented by fishermen; there is often a marked "edge" between the plateau and the continental slope.

The continental shelf fringes to a greater or less extent the whole of the coasts of the Norwegian Sea, and occupies altogether about a third of its entire superficial area. This shelf is covered by depths down to 200 metres with channels down to 600 metres. In water shallower than 200 metres there

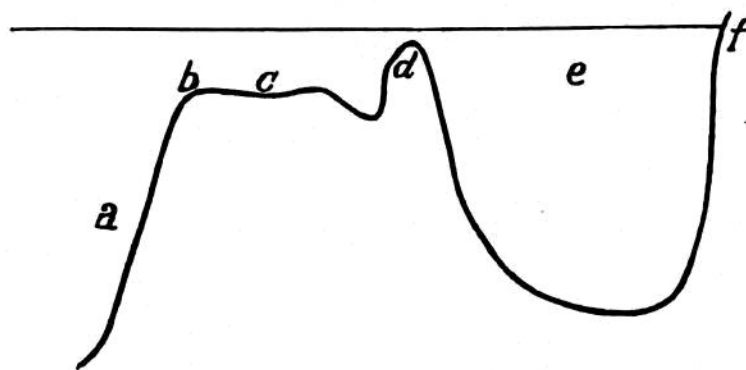


FIG. 144.—DIAGRAMMATIC SECTION OFF THE NORWEGIAN COAST.

a, Continental slope; *b*, continental edge; *c*, continental shelf or plateau; *d*, coast bank; *e*, fjord; *f*, coast.

are only comparatively small banks, the greatest being at Lofoten and Romsdal and round the Faroes and Iceland. Deeper than 600 metres the continental slope is steep; the bathymetrical curves for 600 and 1000 metres lie everywhere in close proximity to one another, and the area of the sea-bottom between them is no more than 5.4 per cent of the whole extent of the Norwegian Sea.

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Deposits of
the North
Atlantic.

The distribution of the deposit-types over the floor of the North Atlantic is shown on Map IV., an examination of which bears out the statement that the terrigenous deposits are relatively more important in the North Atlantic than in the other oceans, in correlation with the relatively large area covered by shallow water. Thus of the total area of 23 million square miles, one-half, about $11\frac{1}{2}$ million square miles (or 49 per cent), is covered by terrigenous deposits. This area is to a very large extent occupied by Blue mud, no attempt having been made to indicate on the map the small areas occupied by Green mud off the coast of the United States, off the Spanish and Portuguese coasts, and in the vicinity of the Wyville Thomson Ridge, nor the small areas occupied by Volcanic mud in the neighbourhood