because in many cases, particularly among the Sphæromids, carcinologists are by no means agreed as to the limits of particular genera. The following genera, however, among others, appear to be, as far as is at present known, peculiar to the littoral zone :—

Asellus.	*Anthura.*
Jæra.	*Haliophasma.*
Paramunna.	*Sphæroma*, and allied genera.
Dendrotion.	*Ceratocephalus.*
Idothea, and other allied genera.	Many genera of Cymothoidæ.

At any rate it may be safely stated that there are more genera peculiar to the littoral zone than either to the continental or abyssal ; the continental zone is evidently a transitional area combining to a certain extent the characters of the abyssal and littoral zones, its own special peculiarities being but feebly marked. Seeing, however, that out of the thirty genera assigned to this region, twenty-five are also found in shallow water, and only fourteen in deeper water (thirteen of these being genera which are also found in shallow water), it appears to me to be almost unnecessary to regard this transitional zone in considering the bathymetrical distribution of the Isopoda. The older division of the marine fauna into two sections, the deep-sea fauna and the shallow-water fauna, fixing the limit between them at about 300 fathoms, appears to me to meet the requirements of the case. All the abyssal genera which are found in shallow water at all are met with in depths of less than 100 fathoms, with the sole exception of *Nannoniscus*, which, being only represented by a single species, cannot be considered to form an important exception. Looking at the matter from this point of view, we shall have eleven peculiar genera of the abyssal fauna, and only four species out of sixty-five which are common to this zone and to the shallower waters.

Mr. John Murray and M. Renard have lately expressed the opinion that "dredgings near the shores of continents in depths of 1000, 2000 or 3000 fathoms are more productive, both in species and individuals, than dredgings at similar depths several hundred miles seaward"; and also that "among the few species dredged in the abyssal areas furthest removed from land, the majority show archaic characters, or belong to groups which have a wide distribution *in time* as well as over the floor of the present oceans." It will be interesting to see how far these conclusions, deduced from a study of other deep-sea invertebrata, are applicable to the Isopoda. With regard to the first question, I find on reference to the list of deep-water forms of Isopoda that there are twenty-five that were dredged in the neighbourhood of continental land, and twenty-two at a long distance from any continental land, though most frequently in the vicinity of land, *e.g.*, at Kerguelen, while four species are found in both habitats. As regards number of species, therefore, the distribution of the deep-sea Isopoda does not lend any strong support to