

the above quoted opinion, though it does not on the other hand render it inapplicable to this group. So very few of the deep-sea species of Isopoda were dredged in any numbers that I cannot say much respecting the number of individuals in the neighbourhood of continents as compared with the number dredged at Stations far distant from any continent; such facts as are at my disposal do not indicate any very marked distinction in this respect; *Eurycope novæ-zelandiæ*, *Serolis bromleyana*, *Serolis næra*, *Serolis gracilis*, *Typhlapseudes nereus*, and *Arcturus myops*, are represented by a considerable number of individuals, and all these species frequent the neighbourhood of continents; on the other hand, *Eurycope sarsii*, *Arcturus spinosus*, *Arcturus brunneus* and *Leiopus leptodactylus* are true "abyssal" forms, and are also comparatively abundant in individuals. Here again the balance of evidence supports Messrs. Murray and Renard, but not in a striking way.

With regard to the supposed archaic character of the deep-sea fauna the facts at my disposal do not permit of any positive statements.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF DEEP-SEA ISOPODA.

One of the most important results of the recent explorations of the deep sea has been to show that it is impossible to mark out any definite regions of the ocean comparable to the terrestrial distributional provinces; the same genus, and even the same species, is often represented by individuals in the most widely separated areas; and this is explained by the similar conditions which must obtain at great depths in all parts of the ocean. Among the Isopoda no great stress can be laid upon the occurrence of the same genus in regions of the ocean widely remote from each other, because among the shallow-water forms many, not to say most genera, are universally distributed; more important results can evidently be attained by considering the distribution of particular species rather than genera. Bearing in mind the very limited knowledge, comparatively speaking, which we at present have of the deep-sea fauna, the occurrence of five species over a wide tract of the earth's surface is more important than it would appear to be if we judged only by percentages.

The most widely distributed species is *Eurycope fragilis*, which ranges from the North Pacific, near to Japan, as far south as lat. 60° S., close to the Antarctic ice-barrier, and to the neighbourhood of the Crozets.

Two species of *Serolis*, viz., *Serolis antarctica* and *Serolis bromleyana*, have been referred to in the first part of my Report as having a wide horizontal distribution; the former was dredged off the coast of South America, just under the equator, and again in the neighbourhood of the Crozets; the latter ranges from off the coasts of New Zealand and Australia to the vicinity of the Antarctic continent. *Neotanais americanus* inhabits regions so far removed as Station 45, off New York, and Station