

greatly under the influence of a host of local circumstances; among which we must include its currents, the winds which favour its evaporation, and the rivers which pour into it the fresh waters of the continents.

It has been remarked that this saltness is less towards the poles than under the equator; that it increases generally with the depth of the water and the distance from the coast; that the inland seas, such as the Baltic, the Black Sea, the White Sea, the Sea of Marmora, the Yellow Sea, are not so salt as the ocean. To this last rule the Mediterranean is an exception; as we have seen, it is *salter* than the ocean. This difference may be explained by admitting that the quantity of fresh water contributed to its reservoir by the rivers is inferior to that which it loses by evaporation. The saltness of the Mediterranean would, therefore, increase yearly, if it did not discharge itself into the ocean by a counter-current flowing from east to west, which prevails under the current that flows from west to east through the Straits of Gibraltar.

The Black Sea—the specific gravity of whose waters is 1.013—receives, on the contrary, through its tributary rivers, more fresh water than it loses in the shape of vapour. Its saltness, as we have shown, is less than that of ocean by more than one-half.

The Sea of Azov and the Caspian are still fresher than the Black Sea.

In the following table is shown the composition of the water of these three inland seas:—

IN A LITRE* OF WATER.	BLACK SEA.	SEA OF AZOV.	CASPIAN.
	Sp. g. = 1.013.	Sp. g. = 1.009.	Sp. g. = 1.005.
Chloride of sodium,.....	14.0195	9.6588	8.6781
Chloride of potassium,.....	9.1892	0.1279	0.0761
Chloride of magnesium,....	1.8045	0.8870	0.6324
Sulphate of magnesia,.....	1.4700	0.7642	1.2389
Sulphate of lime,.....	0.1047	0.2879	0.4903
Bicarbonate of magnesia, ...	0.2086	0.1286	0.0129
Bicarbonate of lime,.....	0.8646	0.0221	0.1705
Bromide of magnesium,	0.0052	0.0035	Traces.
	17.6663	11.8795	6.2942

* A litre is equal to 0.2200967 British imperial gallon, or rather less than a quart.