

Great Britain stands on a broad continental border not over 600 feet deep, and is therefore part of the European continent. A large part of the German Ocean is not over 95 feet deep.

In a similar manner, the East India Islands down to a line by the north of New Guinea and Celebes are a part of Asia, the depth of the seas between seldom exceeding 300 feet, while New Guinea is a part of Australia. In like manner, the Falkland Islands are a part of South America.

These facts with respect to the 100-fathom (600 feet) limit off the American and other coasts are illustrated on the following map.

(b) *Depths of the ocean.*—The depths of the ocean are given on the following bathymetric map, prepared by the author from the charts of the United States and British Hydrographic Department, and from the soundings of the vessels of the United States Fish Commission. The lines marking equal depths are made heaviest for the greatest depths, as explained on the map. The depths are given in 100 fathoms, 21 meaning 2100 fathoms (12,600 feet).

The mean depth of the whole ocean has been estimated at 14,000 feet; that of the North Atlantic, at 15,000; and that of the North Pacific, at 16,000 feet. As exhibited on the map, the western half of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans has greater mean depth than the eastern; for it contains all the 4000-fathom areas, and the larger part of the 3000-fathom areas. In the Indian Ocean the eastern side is the deeper.

In the North Atlantic, deep waters and abrupt slopes extend along near the north shores of the West India Islands; and in this line, north of Puerto Rico, occurs the greatest depth of the Atlantic Ocean, 4561 fathoms, or 27,366 feet. The mean slope from the Puerto Rico coast to the bottom is about 1:14. A deep trough with abrupt sides extends from this depression westward, north of Haiti or San Domingo; and south of Cuba there are depths between 18,000 and 21,000 feet.

In the Pacific, off the east shore of northern Japan and the Kurile Islands, there is a long 4000-fathom area, in which the greatest depth found is 4656 fathoms, or 27,936 feet. An isolated depression of 4475 exists south of the largest end of the Ladrone Islands, and others over 4000 fathoms southeast of the Friendly Islands.

In the North Atlantic, between Greenland and Iceland and Norway, the great Scandinavian plateau lies at a depth, in general, of only 1500 to 3000 feet; and along one course the greatest depth does not exceed 3600 feet. Iceland stands upon it and is prolonged in a ridge under water southwestward for 750 miles, and northeastward to the island of Jan Mayen. The plateau has to the north of it a large, deep region of 12,000 to 15,000 feet. To the southward it is prolonged southwestward in a relatively shallow area, called the Dolphin shoal, which passes near the middle of the ocean to the parallel of 25° N. or beyond, with less than 12,000 feet of water over it, and mostly under 9600 feet. Either side, the depths are 15,000 feet or over, and