

existing soluble principle. By far the most abundant principle, however, in sea-water, is common salt; which may be said to constitute, in general, nearly two-thirds of the whole saline matter present. The whole saline matter is between three and four per cent. ; and the specific gravity of the water varies, according to the proportion of the saline ingredients, from about 1026 to 1030 ; pure water being supposed to be 1000. The late Dr. Marcet, some years ago, made a series of interesting experiments on this subject; and the following are the general conclusions which he drew from them :—

1. That the southern ocean contains more salt than the northern ocean, in the ratio of 1.02919 to 1.02757.

2. That the mean specific gravity of sea-water, near the equator, is 1.02777 ; or intermediate between that of the northern, and that of the southern hemispheres.

3. That there is no notable difference in sea-water under different meridians.

4. That there is no satisfactory evidence that the sea, at great depths, is more salt than at the surface.

5. That the sea, in general, contains more salt where it is deepest, and most remote from land ; and that its saltiness is always diminished, in the vicinity of large masses of ice.