

Deepest soundings in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

The second deepest sounding on the ocean-floor is 5155 fathoms in the Aldrich Deep in the South Pacific, depths exceeding 5000 fathoms being limited to the Pacific Ocean. The deepest sounding recorded in the Atlantic is 4662 fathoms in the Nares Deep to the north of the West Indies, and the deepest in the Indian Ocean 3828 fathoms in the Wharton Deep to the south of the East Indies.

Superficial area of the earth.

In 1886 Professor Chrystal calculated for Sir John Murray the superficial area of the earth, regarded as a spheroid of revolution, as equal to 196,940,700 square English miles, of which the land-surface was estimated at 55,697,000 square miles, and the water-surface at 141,243,000 square miles.<sup>1</sup> At that time the area of land surrounding the south pole was estimated at 3,565,000 square miles, but the results of all the recent south polar expeditions seem to indicate that the Antarctic continent covers a larger extent than was supposed. The latest measurements by Sir John Murray give a probable area of about 5,122,000 square miles for Antarctica, so that the total land-surface of the globe may now be estimated at 57,254,000 square miles, which may be supposed to include all lakes and rivers, leaving about 139,686,000 square miles for the waters of the ocean and seas directly connected therewith.

Area of Antarctic continent.

Area of land on the globe.

Area of water on the globe.

Planimeter measurements of the most recent depth hemispheres gave 139,295,000 square English miles for the area of the whole ocean, and this figure will be adopted throughout this publication.

Areas of the ocean-floor at different depths.

The approximate areas between the consecutive contour-lines drawn in at equal intervals of 1000 fathoms worked out as follows for the whole ocean :—

Fathoms.	Square English Miles.	Percentage.
0-1000	21,725,000	15.59
1000-2000	26,915,000	19.34
2000-3000	81,381,000	58.42
3000-4000	9,058,000	6.50
Over 4000	216,000	0.15
	139,295,000	100.00

<sup>1</sup> *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, vol. ii. p. 550, 1886.