

In the Atlantic the temperature varies approximately as follows with increasing depth:—

DEPTH IN METERS	TEMPERATURE CENTIGRADE
0	19°
500	16
1000	9
1500	4
2000	3
2500	2.5
3000	2

In the Mediterranean, where no cold current flows in at the bottom of the ocean, the temperature sinks rapidly to 11° at a short distance below the surface, and thereafter remains constant. This is due to the fact that in winter the surface water is cooled to that temperature and sinks, remaining then protected from the summer heat by the warmer layer of less density above.

The slight range of ocean temperatures, whether with changing seasons, with changing depth, or with changing latitude, depends primarily upon the latent heat of water, especially its heat of vaporization, and upon the very high freezing point, as already explained in the discussion of these physical properties.

Far more constant than the temperature is the alkalinity of sea water. It has been stated above that the extreme variation in concentra-