

of the Atlantic is 3.2 per cent to 3.3 per cent. Areas where the concentration ranges from 3.3 per cent to 3.4 per cent are still more extensive. The greater part of the North Atlantic ranges in concentration from 3.5 per cent to 3.6 per cent. In general there is a region of maximum concentration between the Equator and the Pole.

The Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and other similar bodies of water possess a somewhat higher salt concentration, dependent upon excessive evaporation and the absence of great currents; but only in exceptional cases and small isolated bodies of water does the concentration rise above 4.1 per cent.

The salinity of ocean water varies also with the depth. In seas where there is a great influx of fresh water the surface is less concentrated than the depths; in seas where there is much evaporation the surface is more concentrated than the depths. In the latter case the higher temperature of the surface causes expansion of the more concentrated water, and enables it to remain above. When these two influences of dilution and evaporation are combined, they may bring about a yearly variation of salinity. Such variations of the environment are important to animal life, slight though they may be. Thus the