A TEXTBOOK OF OCEANOGRAPHY

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A textbook of oceanography by J. T. Jenkins

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J. T. JENKINS

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A TEXTBOOK

OF

OCEANOGRAPHY

BY

J. T. JENKINS, D.Sc., PH.D.



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PREFACE

In spite of the great interest that maritime questions have for the English-speaking nations, there is no modern textbook in English on the subject of oceanography.

Considerable progress has recently been made in the teaching of geography, which is now a degree course at many of our Universities. Although there are many textbooks and manuals on navigational subjects, some of which are published under Government or departmental auspices, it cannot be claimed for these works that their oceanographical (as distinguished from their navigational) instruction is at all up to date. In fact, in most of these works such questions as, e.g., ocean currents are dealt with regardless of modern methods of scientific investigation, and apparently the authors are simply content to copy from older textbooks on the subject. Consequently there is a gap which it is hoped may be filled by a book which, without being unduly technical or mathematical, will give the student an opportunity of becoming acquainted with modern methods of oceanographical research and their chief results. This book has been designed to meet the requirements of the higher forms of schools, of teachers in training, and of students attending a school of geography at one of the Universities, as well as intending naval and mercantile marine officers, since, although a textbook of oceanography can hardly be regarded as an aid to navigation, it should contain much of interest to seafarers. The book should be read with the aid of an atlas, since it is impossible, without unduly enlarging the scope of the book, to provide charts and plans to illustrate all the points dealt with. References are not (in general) given in the form of foot-notes, but a small bibliography of the more important publications in the English language is printed as an Appendix.

Two criticisms will probably occur to many readers, so it may be worth while to attempt to meet them here. In the first place there is no uniformity in reference to depths, temperatures, etc.; the metric system is sometimes used, at other times the depths are given in fathoms. Theoretically it would have been better to have used the metric system only. Actually the British or American seafarers' concept of a fathom is more vivid than that of a metre. Until the metre is universally adopted—e.g., in the British Admiralty charts—it is inexpedient to ignore the fathom. The difficulty is, however, more apparent than real, since the table for conversion (p. 198) is available.

Objection may secondly be taken to the didactic style. This style is inevitable if the information is to be compressed within reasonable compass.

My best thanks are due to Mr. Wade for friendly assistance in the preparation of the text figures; to Dr. E. J. Allen, of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Plymouth, for the loan of process blocks illustrating the hydrographical work of the International Council; and to Messrs. J. Engelhorn's Nachfolger of Stuttgart for permission to use certain illustrations taken from Krümmel's "Handbuch der Ozeanographie."

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