

THE MINIMUM OXYGEN CONCENTRATION IN THE WESTERN BASIN OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

by

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The advance in knowledge of oceanic circulation now demands additional identifying properties which will serve to trace the origin and explain the movements of water masses in the sea and, also to check earlier conclusions based entirely on temperature and salinity distribution. Of all the known identifying properties, oxygen appears to be of the highest importance, not only because of the ease with which it can be accurately measured at sea, but also because of the large amount of data available on its distribution in the open ocean.

Within recent years attention has been drawn to the minimum oxygen concentration at mid depths and several attempts have been made to explain the mechanism responsible for its origin and maintenance; these data are of prime importance for physical oceanographic research.

The paper by Mr. H.R. SEIWELL under review consists of an analysis of the presence of this minimum oxygen concentration in the Western Basin of the North Atlantic based upon observations now available and particularly upon those recorded by the exploring vessel *Atlantis* of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution within recent years.

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