

innumerable transitional stages occur everywhere between such as exhibit as much of the lake character as it is possible to find in the region dealt with and the smallest ponds and drying-up pools. One of the features to a great extent characterising the landscape of the Baltic district is just its great number of small lakes, ponds, and pools.

Characteristic of all the lakes of this zone is their uniform appearance. First and foremost, nearly all are lakes of the level country; their *height* above the sea varies little and is very rarely over 200 m. Only in Riesengebirge, Eifel, and Schwartzwald do some more elevated lakes occur. The *country surrounding* the lakes exhibits everywhere a similar appearance: never perpetual snow, rarely naked rock, but fertile forests, meadows, and arable land, in part bogs and heaths. The ground is nearly everywhere loose and easily worked, and consists mainly of humus, clay, and sand, often mixed with considerable quantities of lime. The lakes are generally of small size, rarely over 3000 hectares, and all shallow; the *depth* rarely exceeds 30–40 m., and attains at most about 70 m. The *shape* of the lake-basins is often circular; steeply sloping sides are rare, and there is generally a very broad littoral region, on the windward side covered by sand or gravel, on the lee side by detritus, peat formations, etc. (Klinge, 1890, p. 264). The *bottom* mostly consists of soft lake-bottom deposits. the so-called lake “gytjes,” very rich in organic material and very often highly charged with lime; the quantity of lime is often so great that the bottom layer may be directly used as marl to improve the arable soil.

Great variations in the *height of the water* do not generally occur. Neither sudden thaws nor violent torrents will produce appreciable variations in the height of the water, as the loose ground everywhere absorbs the moisture and the slope is so slight. Owing to the low banks, even a slight sinking of the surface of the water is very visible, and involves a very great restriction in the area of the lake in autumn. The decrease in the height of the water naturally results in an increasing *concentration*. This becomes much more evident as, on account of the slight declivity of the land, the water is on the whole slowly renewed, and especially so in summer.

With regard to *temperature* also the lakes of this zone present great similarities. Polar lakes do not occur, tropical lakes hardly ever—they are at any rate rare. The great majority are frozen during a shorter or longer period of the year, yet only exceptionally for more than three months. It happens in certain years that the lakes, on the whole, do not freeze at all. A very high summer temperature is common to all the lakes; it probably always exceeds 18° C., not rarely it is 24–26°, and may even be higher. Owing to the slight