

purposes; its density is slightly above that of fresh water, and the proportion of soluble salts about one-fourth of that in the ocean. At the west end of the lake, where the concentration is greatest, owing to the distance from the feeder canals, the proportion of soluble salts is 1·34 per cent., of which 0·92 per cent. is sodium chloride. Schweinfurth¹ shows that the degree of concentration of salt in a lake the volume of which has been continually reduced, and to which salt has constantly been added, should be many times greater than this amount, and concludes that the lake must have a subterranean outlet. Temperature observations gave a maximum of 94°·2 Fahr. (34°·5 C.) in shallow water close to the shore about 2 o'clock on an afternoon in May 1907, and a minimum of 54°·8 Fahr. (12°·2 C.) at the surface in the early morning. One series gave a difference in temperature of 12°·4 Fahr. between the surface and a depth of 3 fathoms; another gave a difference of 8°·8 Fahr. between the surface and a depth of only 1 fathom.² There is a great quantity of life in the lake, belonging to comparatively few species.

The lakes occupying the so-called Great Rift Valley in East Africa, an inland drainage area extending from the Red Sea to south of the equator and covering an area of about 50,000 square miles, should be referred to here, but it has been found more convenient to deal with them after describing the lakes of the Zambesi basin (see pp. 606 and 618).

NORTH
AMERICA.

The inland drainage areas of North America (Great Salt Lake area, Central America, and Mexico) are estimated by Murray to cover 278,000 square miles (see fig. 66).

Great Salt
Lake area.

West of the Wasatch Range and the Colorado plateaus, south of the Columbia plateaus, and east and south of the Sierra Nevada, there is an arid region embracing all of Nevada, part of Utah and Arizona, and the south-eastern corner of California. Humid air-currents travelling eastward from the Pacific suffer a condensation of their vapour before reaching the basin, so that they arrive as drying winds. This region is diversified by many independent mountain ranges of north-and-south trend and of varied structure, uniting to form troughs, the floors of which sometimes stand at altitudes of from 4000 to 6000 feet, as in Utah and Northern Nevada. In the south-west the floors of the depressions are at moderate altitudes; and in two localities, one in southern Nevada — Death Valley—

¹ See note by Dr Schweinfurth on "The Salt in the Wadi Ryan" in Willcocks, *Egyptian Irrigation*, Appendix II., pp. 460-465.

² W. A. Cunnington, "Description of a Biological Expedition to the Birket el Qurun, Fayûm Province of Egypt," *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1908, p. 3. Hitherto this lake has been known as the Birket el Qurun, but Dr Cunnington informs us that according to Captain Lyons the official spelling is now Birket Qarun.