No doubt this appears a tremendous leap from the contemplation of the instrumental observations of the eighteenth century kept by our ancestors in various parts of north-west Europe. But I believe it is for a geographer to endeavour, even at some risk, to provide material for discussion by those better qualified to make more detailed studies. Minor studies, centering round the reasons for the small groups of colder years within the record, may nevertheless open up the major problem of the ways in which the cooling of the seas was begun, both in the deep oceans and on the surface. Now that it has been shown by the Scandinavian glaciologists that we have so recently emerged from a period of maximum post-glacial advance we are in a position to link up and compare the results from a variety of sources in the realms of glaciology, oceanography and meteorology. It is not inappropriate that the countries round the North Sea which have done so much in these realms of observational science should now bring together their results; I hope that these suggestions may lead to further development.

REFERENCES

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GLACIER FLUCTUATION IN THE ALPS 1947-48

In the summer of 1948 heavy precipitation caused an increase of the snow reservoirs in the upper reaches of the glaciers, but rain at lower levels caused the general process of ablation to continue although at somewhat lessened speed. Some glaciers even re-advanced. Dr. P.-L. Mercanton in his report* shows that during 1948 13 per cent of the glaciers had advanced, 10 per cent were stationary and 77 per cent were in recession. In 1947 the respective percentage figures were 0, 2 and 98.†

† From details received from the Comitato Glaciologico Italiano (Rivista del Club Alpino Italiano, N. 7-8, 1949, p. 113-18) in 1947 42 per cent of the Italian glaciers under observation had advanced, 11·1 per cent were stationary or indeterminate and 34·7 per cent were in recession.