

EUROPEAN GLACIER FLUCTUATION, 1947-50

In a report prepared by P-L. Mercanton for the International Commission on Snow and Ice at Brussels in 1951 there is a summary of the variation in length of European glaciers during the years 1947-50. This is shown in the following table. The full report is to be published in the *Transactions* of the International Association of Hydrology.

		FRANCE	ITALY	SWITZER- LAND	AUSTRIA	SWEDEN and NORWAY	ICELAND	TOTAL
<i>Number of glaciers observed</i>	1947-48	13	43	75	67	31	33	262
	1948-49	15	57	82	45	30	32	261
	1949-50	14	81	79	76	34	34	318
<i>Percentage of advancing glaciers</i>	1947-48	0	2	13	6	3	6	6.5
	1948-49	0	2	5	0	7	22	5.5
	1949-50	7	0	1	0	9	23	4.0
<i>Percentage of stationary glaciers</i>	1947-48	0	0	10	5	0	6	5.5
	1948-49	7	2	2	2	7	12	4.5
	1949-50	0	4	0	0	0	10	2.0
<i>Percentage of retreating glaciers</i>	1947-48	100	98	77	89	97	88	88
	1948-49	93	96	93	98	86	66	90
	1949-50	93	96	99	100	91	67	96

COURSE FOR HIGH ALPINE RESEARCH

A PARTY assembled at the Berliner Hütte in the Zillertal (Austrian Tirol) from 2 to 9 September 1951 for the purpose of glaciological and other research. Fifty research workers and scientists took part including Professors R. Finsterwalder (Munich), C. Troll (Bonn) and H. Kinzl (Innsbruck). The main purpose of the course was the investigation of glacier recession and the many phenomena resulting therefrom. The glaciers of the Zemmgrund and the Schlegeisgrund were photogrammetrically surveyed and their exact positions mapped.*

Measurements of glacier speed, of radiation and of ablation were also made. Special attention was given to the areas which had become ice-free since 1850; new methods of mapping these were devised and tested by investigation of their gravels and lichens.

This course was a continuation of the research courses initiated by Sebastian Finsterwalder in 1913 and which have been continued at intervals since that time.

Munich, 9 October 1951

R. FINSTERWALDER

* The Schlegeisgrund is some 7 km. in a direct line west of the Berliner Hütte; the Zemmgrund lies a few kilometres north-west of the hut on the line of approach to it from the valley.—Ed.