

the slope over the edge of the cliff, may have further helped to round off the angle. The groove, on the other hand, was cut into the face of a vertical or slightly overhanging cliff which faced north, so that it was largely protected both from sun and rain. The melt platform and ice groove suggest that the surface waters of the lake were more active in causing melting than were the waters at greater depth.

The lower end of the lake at Terrace II stage led to a short overflow channel, about 36 m. long and 9 m. wide. The side of the channel nearer the glacier was a rock wall about 2 m. high. The other side consisted of an almost vertical face of rubbly material resting upon a bed of clay approximately a metre thick, which was either a boulder clay or a deposit formed during a higher stage of the lake. This rested on a footing of solid rock into which the overflow had been incised. The floor of the channel was strewn with blocks of rock of all sizes from tiny fragments to slabs of a cubic metre or more. There was no sign of sorting by stream action. Some, but not all, of this angular material may have reached the channel floor by downhill creep from the rubble-strewn slopes above. At its lower end, the channel curved back towards the glacier, beneath which an ice tunnel continued the drainage line. Concentric crevasses surrounding a circular depression (see Fig. 3, p. 334) a short way out on the surface of the glacier lay on the same line and probably marked a collapse in the roof of the sub-glacial drainage tunnel.

This example from Norway is instructive because such glacial lakes were widespread in Britain during the late stages of the Ice Age and left their mark on the flanks of the Pennines and elsewhere. The terraces here described, being built of silt, are obviously very transient features. This may help to explain the rarity of shorelines associated with British overflow channels. Support is also given to the suggestion that the absence, or unexpected smallness, of certain channels in an otherwise complete sequence of overflows is due to drainage into the ice front. Edwards,¹ for example, has offered this explanation for some of the difficulties in Kendall's reconstruction of the marginal drainage along the western side of the Vale of York.²

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REFERENCES

1. Edwards, W. The Glacial Geology of the Country round Harrogate, *Proceedings of the Geological Association*, Vol. 49, 1938, p. 333.
2. Kendall, P. F. and Wroot, H. E. *The Geology of Yorkshire*. Printed for the authors, 1924, p. 543.

GLACIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

IN January 1949 the American Geographical Society, the Arctic Institute of North America, and the American Alpine Club jointly sponsored a series of meetings to discuss various aspects of glaciology. During the meetings Mr. Walter A. Wood showed a film dealing with the Arctic Institute's expedition in 1948 to establish a research station and conduct glaciological studies on the *névé* of the Seward Glacier in the St. Elias Mountains of Alaska.

A conference to discuss various aspects of glaciological research was held. Representatives of the Society, the Arctic Institute, the Department of Geology at Columbia University, the United States Geological Survey, the Office of Naval Research, the Bureau of Mineral Research at Rutgers University, the Departments of Geology at Tufts and Lafayette Colleges, and the American Alpine Club attended.

Three prepared statements were presented. Mr. P. D. Baird, director of the Montreal Office of the Arctic Institute and Secretary of the International Commission on Snow and Ice, gave a

report of the Oslo Meeting in 1948. Dr. Henri Bader of the Bureau of Mineral Research at Rutgers University and formerly of the Weissfluhjoch Snow and Avalanche Research Station, Switzerland (Forschungsinstitut Weissfluhjoch), spoke on "Current Trends in Glaciology." Dr. Walter H. Bucher, Professor of Geology at Columbia University and President of the American Geophysical Union, discussed "Structural Features of Ice Bodies."

Mr. Baird outlined the plans for a co-operative scientific expedition to Baffin Island in 1950, a feature of which will be the study of its ice cap, remarkable in that it occupies relatively low ground of little relief. Mr. Field described the Society's Glacier Research Project, with its studies of the Juneau ice field in Alaska and the glaciers of Patagonia. He also spoke of the work of the Committee on Glaciers of the Section of Hydrology of the American Geophysical Union and its long-term programme to promote various glaciological studies.

The second half of the conference was devoted to a general discussion on many subjects. These may be divided into three wide groups: theoretical considerations, specific suggestions in regard to glaciological research in general, and comments on the current ice field researches in Alaska and the Yukon.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
The Journal of Glaciology

SIR,
La Société Hydrotechnique de France, Sous-section Glaciologie

This sub-section was formed at a meeting on 21 December 1948 under the chairmanship of the Inspector General of Waters and Forests. Members of several official governmental bodies and hydro-electric organizations were present as well as many private individuals well known in hydrological circles. Representatives of the French Alpine Club and the Expeditions polaires françaises also attended.

A limited programme of work was arranged with a definite order of priority, the items being:

- The identification of the French glaciers and their run-off streams.
- Aerial topographical and photogrammetric surveys.
- The choice of two glaciers for detailed study.
- The effect of solar radiation on glaciers and snow.
- The structure and properties of ice.
- The volumes of glacial torrents.
- Geomorphological studies.
- The mechanism of glacier flow.
- Measurement of snowfall.
- Avalanches and avalanche defences.

At a second meeting on 24 February 1949 the Mer de Glace and the Glacier de Sarennes were selected for detailed study, the one flowing north and the other south. It was hoped that the Army would assist in making aerial surveys and in other ways.

Foreign correspondents have now been appointed for Great Britain, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden and the United States of America.

The next meeting will take place on the two selected glaciers. A thermo-electric glacier sounding apparatus, which has already shown promising results, will undergo further tests.

Members of this new body would welcome the assistance of foreign glaciologists in the support of its programme, so that they may be kept in touch with the latest developments in all countries. They would be pleased to reciprocate by sending their own transactions in return.

Société Hydrotechnique de France,
199 Rue de Grenelle, Paris (VII).
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