

chamber was hollowed out in the ice beneath ; and a bed of stones, covered with hay, served as a bed for our patient explorer. A flag-staff and a waving banner denoted the position of the *Hôtel des Neuchâtelois* to distant observers.

In this dreary solitude Agassiz endured for two summers the rudeness of an Alpine climate, that he might snatch from nature some of her secrets. On his ambulatory block he inscribed the distance to the promontory of the *Abschwung* in 1840, a distance of 2600 feet (797 metres): to-day it must be considerably greater, since the rate of translation of the glacier to the point where the hotel was situated, has been ascertained to be, on an average, 235 feet per annum.

At the time that Charpentier made public his views upon glacier-motion, Hugi's discovery was not known, though we can give no reason for the secrecy in which the brave explorer had concealed it. However that may be, Charpentier's hypothesis met with no very favourable reception from the scientific celebrities assembled at Lucerne, and was even loaded with ridicule by most contemporary geologists.

The truth, however, was not long in coming to light. Courageous explorers and *savants*, such as Dessor, Venetz, Martins, Leblanc, Edward Collomb, Dolfus-Ausset, and others, established themselves, for months, on the frozen plains, with the view of definitively solving what was felt to be an important problem.

The issue of their investigations and experiments was to establish as an undoubted fact the Progressive Movement of Glaciers ; and, at the same time, to throw a flood of light upon their properties. In these *solid rivers* were discovered various physical characteristics of an exceedingly curious nature. In fine, from the profound knowledge which has thus been acquired of the traces impressed upon the rocks by the transit of these colossal masses, we have re-ascended in the history of the terrestrial globe, and proved that they formerly extended far beyond their present limits in the Alps, the Jura, Scotland, and the whole of northern Europe.

Thus was introduced into modern geology the idea of a glacial