limit of perpetual snow. It necessarily varies according to the temperature of the air, and is less sensible at great elevations than in the lower regions. M. Agassiz, by fixing a series of standards or measuring-poles in a glacier, contrived to estimate the amount by which its level was annually lowered through thawing. In the central part of the glacier of the Aar he found the annual thaw averaged from 9 feet 10 inches to 10 feet 6 inches. In the month of August alone 39 inches of ice melted; but in winter, of course, no liquefaction M. Charles Martins has ascertained that on the glacier occurred. of Faulhorn the average deliquescence of the snow rose to about an inch and a quarter daily in the month of August, which would give nearly 39 inches for the month—and that of the ice to about an inch and a third, or upwards of 41 inches in the same time.

The waters which are produced on the surface of the glacier infiltrate through its crevasses, and through the innumerable very minute fissures which its substance contains. M. Agassiz compares a glacier to an immense sponge, which alternately absorbs and distils, according to the quantity of water it receives.

The liquid originating in the liquefaction of the glaciers accumulates under the ice, and eventually issues forth in torrents at the terminal slope (*talus*). The colour of these glacier-torrents is characteristic; it is not limpid like spring-water; but loaded with sediments which indicate the nature of the rocks encountered by the torrent. Granite rocks are known by a milky tinge, as may be observed in the sources of the Arve and the Rhone, each of which issues from an Alpine glacier. A greenish tint denotes a bed of serpentine; blackish, a bed of black schists. All these torrents carry down with them the silt proceeding from the various rocks which the friction of the glacier, in its movement of progression, has reduced into powder.

The soil subjacent beneath the glaciers does not possess sufficient warmth in itself to assist in melting them; but the springs which escape from the soil with a somewhat higher temperature than rain-water, and those originating in the thaw of the glacial surface during the hottest month of the year,—finally, the waters of the brooks which