

there acquires in some places a remarkably beautiful banded structure, which in lenticular banding and folding presents a close resemblance to the characteristic banded and plicated structure of many ancient gneisses.²²⁸ In descending by a steep slope to a more level part of its course, a glacier becomes a mass of fissured ice in great confusion. It descends by a slowly creeping ice-fall, where a river would shoot over in a rushing waterfall. A little below the fall the fractured ice, with all its chaos of pinnacles, bastions, and chasms, is pressed together again, and by regelation becomes once more a solid mass (Fig. 143).

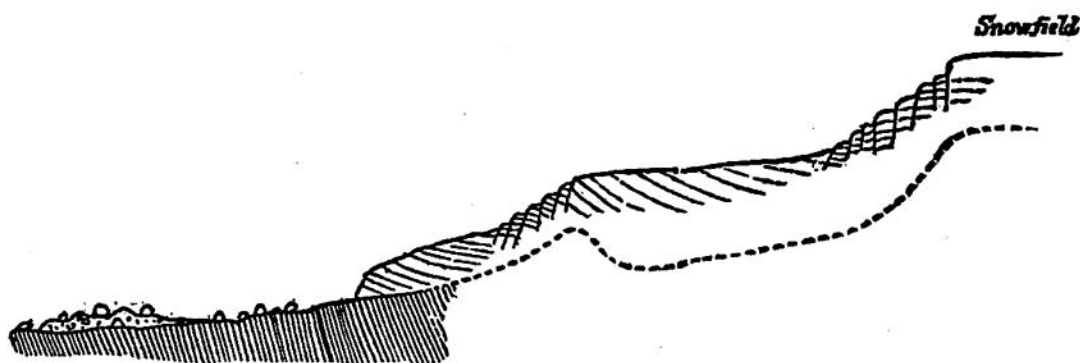


Fig. 143.—Section of Glacier with Ice-falls, Fondalen, Holands Fjord, Arctic Norway.

The body of the glacier throughout its length is traversed by a set of fissures called *crevasses*, which, though at first as close-fitting as cracks in a sheet of glass, widen by degrees as the glacier moves on, till they form wide yawning chasms, reaching, it may be, to the bottom of the ice, and travelling down with the glacier, but apt to be effaced by the pressing of their walls together again as the glacier winds down its valley. The glacier continues to descend until it reaches that point where its rate of advance is just equalled by its liquefaction. There it ends, its place down

²²⁸ See by way of illustration plates ix.—xii. of a paper on the glaciers and inland ice of Greenland by E. von Drygalski, *Zeitsch. Gesell. f. Erdkunde*, Berlin, 1892.