

brought together, and travel thereafter down the centre of the glacier as a *medial moraine*. In Fig. 150 the left lateral moraine (3) of glacier B unites with the right lateral moraine (2) of A to form the medial moraine *b*, while the other moraines (1, 4) continue their course and become respectively the right and left lateral moraines (*c*, *a*) of the united glacier. A glacier formed by the union of many tributaries in its upper parts, may have numerous medial lines of moraine, so many indeed as sometimes to be covered with débris, to the complete concealment of the ice. At such parts the glacier appears to be a bare field or

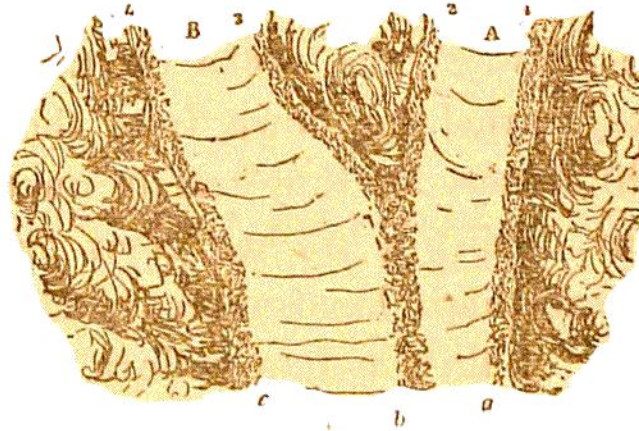


Fig. 150.—Map of the union of two glaciers, showing junction of two lateral into one medial Moraine.

earthy plain, rather than a solid mass of clear ice of which only the surface is dirty with rubbish. At the end of the glacier, the pile of loose materials is tumbled upon the valley in what is called the *terminal moraine*.

Beneath the ice of the Swiss glaciers lies a thin inconstant layer of fine wet mud, sand, and stones, derived partly from the descent of materials from the surface down the crevasses, partly from the rocks of the sides and bottom of the glacier-bed. These materials may be seen fixed sometimes in the ice itself. Though it may locally accumulate, this layer is apt to be removed by the ice or by the water that flows under the glacier. It is known to