SCIENCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1910

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. II

Such, then, are the facts, which call for an interpretation. More than one has been proposed; but it will be well, before discussing them, to arrive at some idea of the climate of these islands during the colder part of the Glacial epoch. Unless that were associated with very great changes in the distribution of sea and land in northern and northwestern Europe, we may assume that neither the relative position of the isotherms nor the distribution of precipitation would be very materially altered. A general fall of temperature in the northern hemisphere might so weaken the warmer ocean current from the southwest that our coasts might be approached by a cold one from the opposite direction.[35] But though these changes might diminish the difference between the temperatures of London and Leipzig, they would not make the former colder than the latter. At the present day the snow-line in the Alps on either side of the Upper Rhone Valley is not far from 8,000 feet above sea-level, and this corresponds with a temperature of about 30°. Glaciers, however, are not generally formed till about 1,000 feet higher, where the temperature is approximately 27°. Penck and Brückner place this line during the coldest part of the Ice Age at about 4,000 feet.[36]

[35] Facts relating to this subject will be found in "Climate and Time," by J. Croll, ch. II. and III., 1875. Of course the air currents would also be affected, and perhaps diminish precipitation as the latitude increased.

[36] *Loc. cit.*, p. 586, et seq. They say the snow-line, which would mean that the temperature was only 12° lower than now; but as possibly this line