

ITALY*

The period from November 1953 to May 1954 was, on the whole, fairly free from snowfall throughout the Italian alps. Snowfall was more abundant in the early summer, when much snow accumulated in the high collecting basins of the glaciers; these remained under snow throughout the summer. However, summer snow is of little importance for maintaining glaciers, so that the recession continued to be appreciable. Nevertheless, if the total number of receding glaciers was considerable, the retreat of each individual glacier was less pronounced compared with 1953, in view of the low mean summer temperature caused by the persistence of bad weather.

The figures for 1953 and 1954 are as follows:

Year			Number observed	Advance	Stationary or doubtful	Retreat
1953	..	..	102	12	9	81
Percentage	..	..	—	11.7	8.9	79.4
1954	..	..	95	8	9	78
Percentage	..	..	—	8.4	9.5	82.1

In 1954 the Italian glaciers thus continued to show considerable recession although at somewhat slower tempo.

M. VANNI

NORWAY*

The year 1954 showed a great deficit for all measured glaciers in Norway. The regime measurements on Storbreen in Jotunheimen showed an excess of ablation of 0.71 million tons per square kilometre, as against a figure of 0.85 million tons in 1953 and an increase of 0.3 million tons in 1952.

In the past year the firn line was found at 1825 m. The corresponding figures for the years 1953 and 1952 were 1850 m. and 1650 m. respectively.

Eleven outlet glaciers from Jostedalsbreen were observed. They were all in retreat, with an average retreat of 30 m.

One of the glacier tongues from Svartisen and 16 glaciers in Jotunheimen were observed. All of these are receding, at an average rate of 13 m. a year.

O. LIESTØL

ICELAND

Of 32 glaciers observed, 19 per cent were advancing, 3 per cent were stationary and 78 per cent were retreating. The maximum retreat, 228 m., was measured at an outlet from Drangajökull while the greatest advance, 257 m., occurred at Hofsjökull in the central highlands.

JON EYTHÓRSSON

* Details of the fluctuations of the individual glaciers in Italy and Norway have been submitted with the summarized reports and can be made available to members.

GLACIER RESEARCH COMMITTEE

A Sub-committee of the main Committee of the British Glaciological Society is being formed to advise expeditions contemplating glaciological investigations and to initiate glaciological research work in general. Communications should be addressed to the Secretary.