

Although the country is dotted over with a number of peaks, generally standing isolated, it is nevertheless on the whole open, our view being obstructed by nothing except clouds and rain. Seen from the south, the dome-shaped and flat-topped twins (X and W) present the shape and appearance shown in the accompanying sketch (fig. 75). The mountain *Ä* consists of two summits, one of which, when seen from a certain position, looks like a Monte Somma wound round the dome of the other, though when seen from another point of view it disappears completely. *Ä* resembles a hog's back or dolphin's back; while Y and Z are tolerably regular cones. All these summits appear to lie along one line, running parallel to our route. Probably they represent the surviving relics of a former spur of the main range, which except for them has now been entirely destroyed.

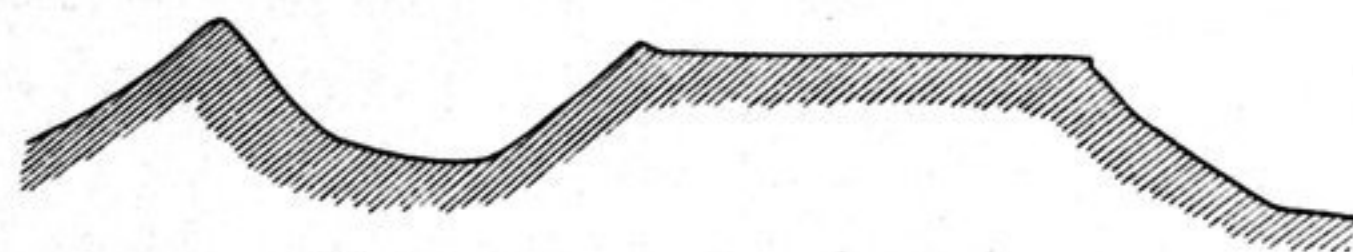


Fig. 75. SUMMITS X AND W.

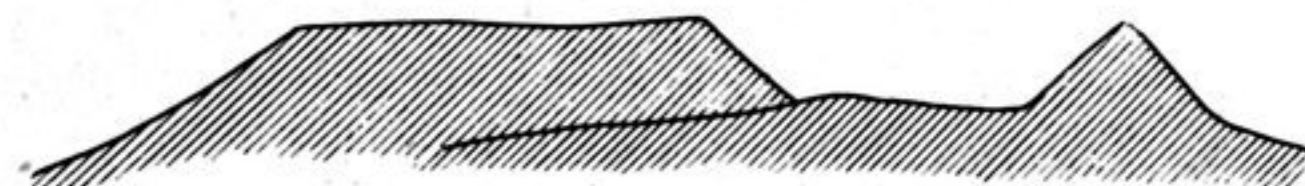


Fig. 76. SUMMITS W AND X.

Once more the great glaciated mass stood out in all its stupendous majesty, and a fresh glacier arm became visible to the west of the arm we have lately had in view. This makes the fifth great ice-stream that we saw issuing from the central *firn* area. This great mountain-mass is continued towards the south-south-east by black mountains of a massive character, the peak *Ö*, with some snow on its top, being the highest. In the S.  $78^{\circ}$  W. we saw an imposing snowy peak towering up above and beyond the glaciated mass, though it probably belongs to the same main range as the latter. Then yet another glacier stream made its appearance proceeding from the glaciers farther west. Although we thus got only fugitive glimpses of the main features of the geography of this mountainous country, we saw sufficient to suggest, that the abundance of thaw-water and rain-water which flows towards the south must eventually combine to form a large river, and it is pretty evident that this river can only terminate somewhere in a large lake. The glacial and hydrographical agencies which we now see so active are however but transient, being restricted to the few brief summer months. It may pretty safely be assumed, that the movements of the glaciers, which even during the summer are slow, cease entirely, or nearly so, during the winter, while the paltry rivulets which are at that season found in the watercourses become converted into ice.

On the left bank of our glacier stream the surface was sometimes undulating, sometimes almost level, and there we crossed over a whole series of small brooks, the ground in the vicinity of which was often soft and treacherous. The hills on the right bank grew increasingly flatter, and began to spread out more and more, and descend into the latitudinal valley as we approached its deepest parts. The stream continued on towards the south; but leaving it on our right we turned away